Tuesday, October 30, 2012 ★★ 7 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 334 P18 | Mobile Alerts: Text INQ ON BREAKING to 4401 | www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet | Philippine Daily Inquirer Twitter: @INQUIRER

Philippines gets credit upgrade from Moody's

SURFIN' LAB A Labrador Retriever named River rides the waves with surfer Toto Esquibel during the 7th Surf Break in San Juan, La Union, on Sunday. River—owned by Luke Landrigan, who runs the San Juan Surf Resorts—has been trained to ride the big waves of the La Union coastline. ROMERICO CRUZ/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

By Michelle V. Nerez

AN INTERNATIONAL agency has raised the credit rating of the Philippines from two notches to just one notch below investment grade, a positive development for the country amid global economic woes.

With a new rating from Moody's Investors Service, the Philippines expects to make the last step toward investment grade soon.

An investment rating is expected to allow the country to attract more job-generating foreign direct investments.

As a result of Moody's decision, the country's credit ratings from all three major international credit watchdogs are now all at one notch below investment grade.

Fitch Ratings and Standard & Poor's earlier raised their ratings for the Philippines to just a notch below investment grade, citing encouraging economic developments.

In a decision announced yesterday, Moody's said the improved assessment of the creditworthiness of the Philippines was based on its healthy pace of growth, improving fiscal performance of the national government, stable banking sector and projected ability to keep a robust pace of economic ex-

PHILIPPINES, A17

US East Coast shuts down

Gov't warns of one-of-a-kind superstorm

STORM SURGE THREAT Molly White, 9, from Frankford, Delaware, covers her head as she is pelted by sand blown by strong winds on the beach on Sunday in Ocean City, Maryland. AP

NEW YORK—Forecasters warned that the New York City region could face the worst of Hurricane "Sandy" as it bore down on the US East Coast's largest cities on Monday, forcing the shutdown of financial markets and mass transit, sending coastal residents fleeing and threatening high winds, rain and a wall of water up to 3.3 meters tall. It could endanger up to 50 million people for days.

Sandy strengthened before dawn and stayed on a predicted path toward New York, Washington, Baltimore and Philadelphia, putting it on a collision course with two other weather systems that would create a one-of-a-kind superstorm with the potential for havoc over 1,280 kilometers from the East Coast to the Great Lakes.

US DEST/A10

Stormy weather

The US braces itself as Hurricane Sandy prepares to strike

310,000 Fil-Ams in harm's way

By Nimfa U. Rueda
Correspondent

LOS ANGELES—Filipino-American teacher Maryann Abdon vividly remembers the whipping winds, pelting rains and mass evacuations when Hurricane "Irene" struck the US East Coast last year.

"It was terrifying," said Abdon, who fled her home, about 5 kilometers from the bay in Cape May, New Jersey, "But this one (Hurricane 'Sandy') seems to be more. We expect it to be really, really bad."

Hurricane "Sandy" is expected to make landfall Monday night (Tuesday morning in Manila) near the southern New Jersey coast, prompting widespread evacuations and mass transit shutdowns.

The National Hurricane Center said Sandy was expected to bring "life-threatening storm surge flooding" to the East Coast.

10, A10 | A7

Hurricane to spawn tsunami-like waves

LIKE A HAND pushing water in a bathtub, the winds of a hurricane push the water of the Atlantic Ocean. Where the wind blows water runs up against land, the water piles up and flows inland. That describes a storm surge.

"It's almost a little bit like a tsunami," said Klaus H. Jacob, a scientist at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory.

When Hurricane "Sandy" makes landfall late Monday, the pulse of windblown water will be "in a word, bad," Jacob said. "It's of course still somewhat uncertain. It all depends on the exact timing."

HURRICANE | A10

GMA refuses to enter plea to plunder

By Cynthia D. Balana

FORMER President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has a Valentine's date arranged for her by the Sandiganbayan.

On Feb. 14, 2013, the anti-graft court said it would hold a pretrial hearing on the latest plunder charge against Arroyo, now a Pampanga representative.

Arroyo yesterday refused to

GMA REFUSES, A17

Confusion marks early reports on GMA / A17

ARRAIGNED Former President Arroyo makes her way in the Sandiganbayan in a wheelchair on Monday. RG PEL

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A Taste of Luxury and Style As Resorts World Manila's Grand Fiesta Nears

Superior owners and collectors dipped their usual Sunday leisure drive to gather in the Gilfor... Superior Day at Resorts World Manila's Newport Terminal last Sunday, October 28.

Enthusiasts graced the grand event, giving a taste of the most anticipated Yuletide event of the year, the Grand Fiesta 2012.

A showcase of over 75 sleek, eye-catching and exotic Supercars, including the extravagant Lamborghini Aventador and the luxurious Bentley, owned by one of Philippine Entertainment's most in demand leading men, Dingdong Dantes, along with the Porsches, Mercedes', Ferraris and Maseratis.

The Grand Fiesta 2012 starts on November 15, with a vintage car show slated at the Newport Mall Plaza from November 25 until December 1. Grand Fiesta 2012 is Resorts World Manila's six-week celebration of the Yuletide season. For more information, visit www.rwmanila.com or call Tiketik Hotline at (02) 908-8888.

(L-R Resorts World Manila's VP for Marketing Alvino Paz, Dingdong Dantes, and Resorts World Manila EVP Steve Saling)

Bilib I.T. or not: Prison call center eyed

By Matikas Santos
Intern

YOU'VE got to "BILIB I.T."

Call centers may soon be run in prisons with inmates as operators, thanks to a program initiated by Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano that aims to help convicts get a better chance to resettle and reintegrate back into society.

The program, dubbed "BILIB I.T.," will grant information

BILIB, A17

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY: Mostly cloudy with a possibility some areas will have light to heavy rain in the afternoon or evening over the Eastern Visayas

Metro Manila	Sunny	Iloilo/Bacolod	Sunny
Baguio	Sunny	Davao	Sunny
Tuguegarao	Light Rain	Cebu	Sunny
Laoag	Sunny	Zamboanga	Light Rain
Metro Iloilo	Sunny	Cagayan de Oro	Sunny
Tacloban	Sunny	Cotabato	Light Rain

Complete weather data as of 5 p.m. Provided courtesy of Accuweather.com

Second FRONTPAGE

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P-Noy to bat for Moros in Europe

By Gil Cabacungan

PRESIDENT Aquino will seek the support of European countries for a Bangsamoro region in Mindanao during the 9th Asia-Europe Meeting (Asem) in Vientiane, Laos, next month.

"The President will seize the opportunity provided by Asem to engage relevant European partners in order to firm up support for the development of the Bangsamoro," said Foreign Assistant Secretary Elizabeth Buensuceso.

The President has signed the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) to pave the way for a permanent peace pact anchored on granting greater autonomy to Muslims in Mindanao through the Bangsamoro.

Buensuceso said the Philippines and Europe had deep and strong political ties with the European Union (EU) which was a member of the International Monitoring Team of the Philippine-MILF Peace Process, while the United Kingdom was a key figure in the International Contact Group and Norway was a facilitator of the peace negotiations.

"European partners were among the very first to welcome and express support for the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro," said Buensuceso.

During the Asem, she said the President would also harness his gains in promoting good governance and turbocharge growth in the country while upholding the rights of Filipino migrant workers. There are 746,700 Filipinos in Europe who remitted to the Philippines a total of $2.1 billion in 2011. Many Filipino seafarers man European-flagged vessels.

Top priority

"Asem remains a high demand for highly skilled Filipino workers in such countries as Germany, Norway and Switzerland despite the economic crisis that is raging through Europe these days," said Buensuceso. "It is no secret that the Premier has placed the protection and promotion of the welfare of migrant workers on top of his priorities."

Buensuceso said Mr. Aquino was planning to conduct bilateral meetings with his counterparts from the European Council and European Commission, and Italy (co-host), Norway (peace process, labor cooperation and climate change), Poland (defense and high-value-added) and Switzerland (human rights cooperation and disaster-risk management).

"We are very happy that the President is also meeting five or six other heads of European governments because here is an excellent opportunity to interact with the European counterparts. We will have a few bonuses you don't have to go [to] each country," said Buensuceso.

She said this would be the first time, since we last fired you in office, will attend an Asem conference which coincides with the country's renewed focus on Europe and its importance as economic partner which accounted for $1.3 billion or 12 percent of the Philippines' total trade.

Asem was started 16 years ago to forge deeper cooperation between Asia and Europe. It is made up of 46 partners, including the 10 Asean member countries and 27 member states of the EU.

At this developed, the military said yesterday that supporters of a breakaway group of the MILF led by Ameril Umra Kato were no longer a threat.

Lt. Col. Rey Galido, commander of the Army's 40th Infantry Battalion, said their had been recent sightings of members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), the MILF breakaway group, following the signing of the framework agreement between the MILF and the government on Oct. 15.

But Galido stressed that the BIFF members who had remained in Shariff Saydona Mustapha, Maguindanao, Galido said.

Galido said the BIFF members in Shariff Saydona Mustapha are currently "supporters in principle but not in action."

Scuttled memorandum

Kato remains in Maguindanao, Galido said.

In 2008, Kato led brutal attacks in different parts of Maguindanao that left scores dead or both sides and displaced more than 300,000 people.

The attacks were following the scuttled Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain (MOA-AD) that would have created the Bangsamoro Juridical Entity.

The Supreme Court had declared the MOA-AD unconstitutional.

Galido said the army had maintained good relations with the community-based MILF commanders to discount as a result of years of "confidence building."

Galido said the military and the MILF kept close lines of communication open due to Ramos.

"While the framework agreement, it is already a breakthrough even if it is just a guideline. It is a step towards reaching something," Galido said. With a report from Nikko Dizon

Reds warn MILF: Don't give up your weapons

LIBANO (3TF) — Two weeks ago, amid calls for the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army to return to the negotiating table with the government, Leil leader Satur Ocampo had urged President Aquino to "uphold his vow to secure peace talks" with the insurgent group, just like he did with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

But now the weekend, the communist National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) warned the Moro group against the government's "divisive scheming" with regard to the framework agreement it signed early this month.

In a statement e-mailed to the Reuters, Jorge Madlos, NDFP spokesperson in Mindanao, warned the MILF against readily giving up its arms, and said that agreeing to decommission its Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Force (BIAF) would render the group useless in protecting the rights of the Moro people.

"Removing weapons from the peace, the MILF should not easily relinquish its effective military strength on the whim of the reactionary government so that it can continue to defend the interests of the entire Moro people," said Madlos, also known as Ka Oris.

The NDFP entered into a tactical alliance with the MILF in February 2009 on the issue of the Moro people's right to self-determination.

"Before any form of 'decommissioning' takes place, it must be made crystal clear that the basic issues never exists the MILF's BIAF incapacitated, without initiative, or simply reduced to take on police functions under the control of the Philippine National Police," Madlos said in the statement.

He said that even before the signing of the framework agreement, the government (was) already "duly reconciling" the Moro armed group through its long-drawn out counter-insurgency program, Commander Lacuesta, Inquirer Mindanao

Margarita "TingTing" Cojuangco and the Province of Sultan Kudarat Honors Malaka Chief Minister

Inset: Sultan Kudarat former Gov. Datu Pax S. Mangudadatu. Al-Haj of this province receives the Chief Minister of the state of Malaka, Malaysia who arrives today for a conferment and to administer the oath of office to the first officers and members of the Dunia Melayu Dunia Islam Philippines, Inc.

Hon. Datuk Seri Haji Mohd Ali Bin Mohd Rustam arrived with his delegation led by Madam Yang Amat Ber Bahagia Balin and Seri Asmah Binti Abdul Rahima and the Deputy Chief Ambassador of the Embassy of Malaysia in Manila Datuk Zakaria Nasir.

Datu Pax S. Mangudadatu, Al-Haj will lead the officers and members of Dunia Melayu Dunia Islam Philippines, Inc. (DMDIP) in the induction ceremony today.

Hon. Datuk Seri Haji Mohd Ali Bin Mohd Rustam arrived with his delegation led by Madam Yang Amat Ber Bahagia Balin and Seri Asmah Binti Abdul Rahima and the Deputy Chief Ambassador of the Embassy of Malaysia in Manila Datuk Zakaria Nasir.

Datu Pax S. Mangudadatu, Al-Haj will lead the officers and members of Dunia Melayu Dunia Islam Philippines, Inc. (DMDIP) the induction ceremony today.

He will be sworn in as the first President of Dunia Melayu Dunia Islam Philippines, Inc. (DMDIP) for his tenure leadership and services.

He is the incumbent Vice president of Dunia Melayu Dunia Islam (DMDI) or the Malay and Islamic World and will continue to serve in the same capacity.

Hon. Datuk Seri Haji Mohd Ali Bin Mohd Rustam in addition to administering the oath of office of the Dunia Melayu Dunia Islam Philippines, Inc. will also receive Doctor of Humanities Honoris Causa from the Sultan Kudarat State University. An icon in leadership, he is credited as guro of service-driven, people-oriented governance who had transformed his state into the leading tourism jewel of Malaysia.

He will also sign two Memorandum of Agreement that will see the creation of Sister-hood cooperation between the State of Malaka and the Province of Sultan Kudarat and the establishment of Bangsamoro Islamic Institute for Leadership and Governance.

The signing in the part of Sultan Kudarat will be led by Hon. Gov. Datu Suharto T. Mangudadatu, Al-Haj, Governor of the Province of the Sultan Kudarat.

The twin affairs will sustain and strengthen the friendship of two states as partners in the development of the region.

Haji Sultan Omar Pax S. Mangudadatu-IV, Ph.D., H.D.

Vice President DMDI (Malay and Islamic World)
President-Elect DMDI Philippines Inc.

HRH Datuk Seri Haji Dr. Mohd Ali Bin Mohd Rustam

Chief Minister of Melaka, Malaysia
President DMDI (Malay and Islamic World)

JPE to peers: Why don't you work for a change?

By Cathy Yamsuan

SENATOR TIN tired of being made the scapegoat for the nonpassage of certain priority measures, Senate President Jinggoy Estrada the last tasked to his colleagues and asked that they spend more time inside the session hall instead of disappearing the moment their attendance is recorded at roll call.

Inside said floor debates would go much faster and the approval of bills earlier (i.e., by the senators stayed in their seats and if the end of each session.

The matter of attendance at the Senate had been brought up previously after some members admitted they were not aware of what went on during the debate and subsequent approval of the Cybercrime Prevention Act, which drew plenty of flak.

Asked in an interview about the division of the six tax bill and the 2015 national budget bill of P2.6 billion being passed soon, Tin he said: "It is possible if the senators don't go gallivanting around (making trips somewhere)), just sit."

So many excuses

He said several senators showed up only for the roll call and then left for various reasons.

"Some say they have official business waiting outside the building. Others claim they are sick. There are so many reasons," he said.

Estrada said that when the debate heats up more on the floor over the anomaly bill, senators who is against the measure could enter the hall and question whether there is a quorum.

"What billions inside the session hall then where there is none?" he said.

He said much of the work in the next few weeks would rely on the attendance of all the senators, especially since the six-tax bill appears to be the next debate issue after the reproductive health bill and the one moving a new province out of Cotabato Sur.

I am not a flirt, says rejected bet

BEIJING – "Bible preacher, a mother of eight and grandmother of 26," definitely not "a flirt and a romance candidate," 71-year-old Bienvenida Nuevo told reporters at the Commission on Elections (Comelec) yesterday.

"I did not flirt with the chairman (of Comelec). We just had a pleasant conversation considering that I am a widow and he is a widower," an irked Nuevo said.

The widow appeared at the Comelec on the day the election body was scheduled to release the names of five more contenders eligible to join the 27 bets who earlier qualified for the ornamental race next year.

In choosing two weeks ago, Nuevo had tried to convince Comelec Chair Sixto Brillantes Jr. that she was a legitimate senatorial candidate by claiming that she still had votes and laughing indicating she still had it and that she was "very much available and huntable."

"It will be an honor to have the chairman as my future," Nuevo had said during the Dec. 19 hearing. The brief exchange had Brillantes blushing and the people in the Comelec office laughing.

Strength, endurance

But Nuevo was not amused. "It is not healthy for a Bible preacher like me (to flirt). It's a bad word," said the former homebuyer over Church icon Radio Veritas.

"The meaning of my name is strength and endurance... (it) does not mean desperate. Ang ibig sabihin (that)," she said, adding "I am a mother of eight and a grandmother of 26."

Nuevo said she should not be considered a nuisance candidate because she had a political party. She filed her certificate of candidacy (COC) under the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL) but became a candidate of the Partido Manggagawa Magsasaka after leaving that BBL-president Jaime Opinion had withdrawn the party's certification of nomination.

Brillantes said the Comelec could not change its rules that disallows candidates from submitting a second certification of nomination or the last minute.

"Even if you have a party, it doesn't mean that you are not a nuisance candidate," he told Nuevo. "And you cannot change your first nomination. Whatever was attached in your (COC), that's your nomination," he said.

The Comelec raised five more candidates for the Senate. They are businesswoman Ricardo Perlas, Senator Sikwonts of the Social Justice Society, the Democratic Party of the Philippines' Christian Antonio, Bakkanawo Bikinor and Jesse Belgica.

Another 8, by

The Senate President said the upper chamber's members were "not my employees" and they should realize it is their jobs to attend the sessions.

"But look at some of them. I'm not saying all but there are those who claim they have business elsewhere, they would rather talk outside than inside the session hall... I mean not under a lock-down of the session hall to prevent them from leaving. Otherwise someone might again make a remark about marital law and like," he said.

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Roxas channels Robredo at award rites

CLARK FREEPORT—It was how he would have wanted it.

Interior Secretary Manuel Roxas II (fantasies) his predecessor, the late Jesse Robredo, last week as he handed out to local governments in Central Luzon awards that some decided upon before Robredo was killed in a plane crash in August.

"The assessment of grading and decision to give recognition to these top performing local governments were made during the month of[illegible] Jesse," Roxas told reporters on Wednesday.

For excellence in the Local Governance Performance Management System (LGPMS), Roxas conferred awards to administrative governance on Cabanatuan City, San Felipe town in Zambales and Angeles City; for social governance on Cabanatuan City, Tarlac province, Camiling town in Tarlac and Angeles City; and for economic governance on Diputadan in Aurora, Bulacan province and Polomolok City.

The environmental governance citation went to Tarlac province, San Clemente town in Tarlac and Diputadan in Aurora, and the enhancing fundamentals of good governance award to Tarlac province, Angeles City and Olongapo City[illegible].

Angeles City and Gapan in Nueva Ecija received special recognition for getting high marks in the LGPMS categories since 2009.

Robredo involved civil society groups in validating the LGPMS, accreditation and assessment tool that enables provincial, city and town governments to determine their capabilities and limitations in the delivery of basic services, a Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) report said.

Roxas also awarded the Seal of Good Housekeeping (SGH) to the provincial governments of Aurora, Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales, and the highly urbanized cities of Angeles and Olongapo.

The SGH is given to local governments that have excelled in financing, budgeting, revenue mobilization, financial management and budget execution, procurement and resource mobilization, and Florita Dijes, DILG regional director.

As of Oct. 25, Dijes said the seven provinces as well as 11 cities and 117 towns in Central Luzon had obtained the SGH.

Concomitant and implemented during Robredo's term, the SGH is also an incentive through which local governments can avail themselves of the Performance Challenge Fund (PCF).

The DILG, on its website, said the PCF was an "incentive fund to eligible local governments in the form of counterpart funding for local development projects to the Annual Investment Program and Established by the 20-percent Local Development Fund."

Roxas said the standards for qualifying for the awards would be "upgraded to raise the [performance] targets of local governments."

Robredo also introduced the full disclosure policy for transparency and accountability in local governments. It is a requirement to the SGH.

DILG reports said 956 local governments had qualified for the SGH, getting a total of P1.1 billion for the PCF.

The final of Ultimate Preparedness, which Robredo also started, dictated 8,384 local governments with functional disaster management councils and 1,519 of them with command centers and alarm systems. Rosette Dedes, Inquirer Central Luzon

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28 Taiwan companies present their most-valued products and service:

Foundations	Continuous restaurant, Western style burgers, coco shop, Drinks, and all sorts of Rice
Personal products	Skin care, beauty care, body care, Mask, Bone, beauty kit, Facial soaps (sets), Pillow,Mattress, Health Socks,
Food Products	Tea & Chili Sauce, Canned food, Dehydrated, Bonsai,Fresh products, Authentic Condiments, Biscuit, Cake, Lemon Cake, Bramley Donuts
Automobile Products	Video Image Guide Scope, Car Camera Recorder, Car Door Handle & Lock, Power Windows, Auto Appliances, door accessories, LED Gauglight
Electronics	3 C products, Android Pad/Sony Tablet, Smart TV Box & Stick, Smart Home Control, Surveillance, UPS, Inverter
Other Products	Cold water, Heating, Leaving bearing, Seedlings, Porcelain, Plastic, Flat Plates, Photosensitive, Mobile Shelving, Storage racking system, Driving Equipment

For trade meeting appointment, please contact:
Economic Division
Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO)
Ms. Lorie or Ms. Alice at Tel. Nos. 887-2651, 887-6001 ext. 142, 146, or Fax: 881-2005
Email: erikaxu@mofa.gov.tw

Organized by:
Bureau of Foreign Trade, MOEA
In association with TECO and PCCI
Ad by: DOFT

Sulu gov seeks answers

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Gov. Abdusakur Tan wants the military to explain how Marines searching for long-held hostages of the period and the wounding of 20 others in Patikul, Sulu, on Sunday.

"I want to know what happened. We are at the height of implementing Gabay Kapatiran, the interim peace and security plan, and suddenly they disrupt our peace in Sulu," Tan said.

An undetermined number of fatalities were displaced when Marines engaged in a six-hour clash with up to 200 fighters of the al-Qaida-linked group in Barangay Bahong, Patikul, Sulu.

Tan said he assured different versions of the incident.

"If there are different versions, it means there is something wrong."

According to Tan, Marine Battalion Landing Team 5 deputy commander Lt. Romulo Quintos had said the soldiers were on routine operations, while the Western Mindanao Command claimed they were in the area to check on reports the terrorists had their kidnap victims with them. —Julie L. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao, JP

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30 October 2012

THE PANDACAN OIL DEPOT AND THE NEED FOR POLICY STABILITY

We, the undersigned business groups, express our deepest concern regarding Ordinance 8283 of the Manila City Council, which reclassifies the land where the Pandacan oil depot currently stands from heavy industrial to high intensity commercial/mixed use, effectively removing the said facility from the area.

We note that apprehensions over the security of the facility and the safety of the surrounding residential community are at the forefront of the decade-long debate over the Pandacan oil depot. With regard to this, we would like to categorically state that it is both an interest and a duty of the business sector to ensure and promote the people's right to a safe environment, good health, and a balanced ecology. While our primary role is to create economic wealth, we also give the highest regard to the responsible and sustainable conduct of our businesses.

In this light, the companies affected by the said Manila ordinance implemented measures to adequately address such safety concerns, from reconfiguration in the layout of the depot's facilities to increased security safeguards jointly undertaken with local law enforcement and emergency response units.

However, we foresee the emergence of a new set of concerns should the relocation of the Pandacan oil depot outside Metro Manila push through. We will have to contend with increased risk of road accidents, product spills, and threats to security for the truckers and the public. It will also mean higher logistical costs, which must, in fairness, be passed on to consumers.

Beyond these issues, there is growing anxiety over what the Pandacan oil depot case has come to illustrate, and that is the seeming lack of stability and consistency in government policies and regulations. The area where the Pandacan depot is located is an industrial zone and has been so for the past 90 years, but Ordinances 8027 in 2001 and 8119 in 2006 sought to remove the oil depot by rezoning the area and designating it for commercial use. These were overturned by Ordinance 8187 in 2009, which led to the reclassification of the area as a heavy industrial zone and thus allowing the facility to remain in Manila. This was then reversed by Ordinance 8283, enacted by the Manila City Council in August 2012, which again sought to reclassify the oil depot area as a high intensity commercial/mixed use zone. On September 11, Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim vetoed Ordinance 8283, but was subsequently overruled by the City Council, prompting the Mayor to issue a second veto on October 12.

The Pandacan oil depot's case is but one of various instances where unclear policies and the widway changing of rules by government agencies and local government units have led to reduced or even lost opportunities that would have benefitted the economy, host communities, and the public. Though the Philippines continues to improve its competitiveness rankings, the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report 2012–2013 still lists policy instability as the 4th most problematic factor for doing business in the country. The lack of stability and predictability in policies and regulations can only serve to erode the renewed confidence and trust in our government institutions that President Aquino has painstakingly built under his administration.

It is our fervent hope that government find a way to bridge gaps in policy, secure investor confidence, protect projects of strategic national interest from capricious changes in regulations, and, ultimately, ensure prolonged inclusive growth for the country.

Employers Confederation of the Philippines
MAP
MBC
Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Fil-Ams in danger

From page A1

The storm surge is expected to be as high as 2.1 meters in some areas, including Jersey City, New Jersey, which has a large Filipino-American community.

The Philippine Embassy on Monday issued an advisory urging Filipinos on the East Coast to "take all necessary precautions and brace themselves" for what has been described as the biggest storm to ever hit the region.

The embassy said the advisory was sent to 11 states in the superstorm's path. There are an estimated 20,000,000 Filipinos living in those states, according to the embassy.

Myrelle Falgueras, a medical office administrator who lives in the seaside community of Long Beach, New York, said many Filipinos in the area had already been evacuated.

"Some friends and I decided to stay behind," Falgueras said. "It's already cold and windy here. I hope we don't lose electricity."

Washington resident Arnedo Valera said his family stocked up on water, nonperishable food items, batteries and other essentials as early as Friday when they first heard about the approaching hurricane.

"We've pitted ten inside early preparations," he said. "We heard some grocery stores have run out of food items."

Advisory forwarded

Valera, a lawyer and community leader who volunteers for the legal basis of President Barack Obama's food campaign, said he removed his "Vote for Obama" signs on his lawn in anticipation of strong winds and heavy rains. He said campaign activities were suspended.

Valera said his nonprofit group, Migrante Worldwide Commission, forwarded the embassy's advisory, along with government-issued emergency preparedness guidelines, to thousands of Filipinos by e-mail.

The National Federation of Filipino American Associations on the East Coast also distributed the embassy's advisory to its members, said Washington-based Bing Brwright, the group's assistant director of communications.

"We have full confidence in the government's readiness to respond in emergencies," Brwright said. "But we still have to remind community members not to be complacent and to be prepared."

Philippine Ambassador to the United States Jose Cuisia Jr. said the embassy and the Philippine Consulate General in New York activated 24-hour help desks to assist Filipino tourists traveling to the East Coast who may be affected by the hurricane.

"We advise our countrymen to please [illegible] the path of Hurricane Sandy to stay in, don't take avoid unnecessary travel until the storm has passed," Cuisia said.

The advisory was sent to Filipino communities in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, District of Columbia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and Connecticut.

Filipinos who need assistance may call the embassy's duty officer at (202) 956-2761 or the Consulate General in New York at (917) 294-0136, the advisory said.

PANIC BUYING Customers wait in line to buy groceries at the Fairway supermarket in New York on Sunday. Hurricane "Sandy" is expected to come ashore on Monday night, bringing strong winds and dangerous flooding to the East Coast from the mid-Atlantic states to New England. Forecasters caution Sunday.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday - October 30, 2012
30th Week in Ordinary Time
Lit. Weekday Eph 5:21-33

Let all kinds of submission to our mother become obedience to Christ. In vows to their husbands as to the Lord.

The husband is the head of his wife, as Christ is the head of the Church, he being salvation for us. In order that as the Church submits to Christ, so let us with submit to everything to her husband.

As for you, husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the Church and gave himself up for her. He washed her and made her holy by baptism in the Word. As he wanted a radiant Church without stain or wrinkle or any blemish, but holy and blameless. So husband has to prepare and present her to himself.

In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they love their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. And no one has ever hated his body, he feeds and takes care of it. That is how Christ does for the Church, because we are members of his body.

Scripture says: Because of this a man shall leave his father and mother to be united with his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This is a very great mystery, and I take it to Christ and the Church. As for you, let each one love his wife as himself, and let the wife respect her husband.

Gospel Luke 13:10-17

Jesus continued speaking, "What is the Kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to? Imagine a person who has taken a mustard seed and planted it in the garden. The seed has grown and become like a small tree, so that the birds of the air shelter in its branches."

And Jesus said again, "What is the kingdom of God like? Imagine a woman who has taken yeast and hidden it in three measures of flour until it all leavened."

Reflection

The images [illegible] and small seeds of [illegible] and salt of humanity, these things are like [illegible] that is to say, everything real. In the world of advertising and entertainment, things have to [illegible] to get our attention. It is our [illegible] of their normality that real things grow. Faith only needs [illegible] to start a beginning, a small step, unremarkable moments seem to be the way it [illegible]

TO ALL STOCKHOLDERS OF METRO PACIFIC TOLLWAYS CORPORATION
(FORMERLY, FIRST PHILIPPINE INFRASTRUCTURE, INC.)

Dear Stockholder:

Please be advised that on October 15, 2012, the Board of Directors of **METRO PACIFIC TOLLWAYS CORPORATION** ("**MPTC**" or the "**Company**"), through its Executive Committee, approved the voluntary delisting (the "**Delisting**") of MPTC from the Philippine Stock Exchange ("**PSE**"). Pursuant to the foregoing approval, on October 15, 2012, MPTC filed an application with the PSE for the Delisting of MPTC's shares of stock with the PSE. Subject to the approval of the Delisting by the PSE, the effective date of the Delisting is on December 21, 2012.

Under the PSE's Rules on Delisting, voluntary delisting will require the conduct of a tender offer to all stockholders of record of the listed company by the listed company itself or by the person(s) proposing the delisting thereof.

In relation to the foregoing and in compliance with the requirements of the PSE under its Rules on Delisting, **METRO PACIFIC INVESTMENTS CORPORATION** ("**MPIC**" or the "**Bidder**"), MPIC's controlling stockholder, shall conduct a voluntary tender offer (the "**Tender Offer**") to acquire all of the issued and outstanding shares of MPTC held by MPTC stockholders other than the Bidder (the "**Public Shareholders**"). More specifically, the Bidder is offering to acquire all of the issued and outstanding common shares of MPTC held by MPTC Shareholders other than MPIC at the tender offer price of Six Pesos and Fifty Centavos (Php6.50) per share.

As of October 12, 2012, the issued and outstanding common stock of MPTC held by MPTC Public Shareholders consists of 2,860,333 shares of common shares (the "**Public Shares**"), representing approximately 0.73% of MPTC's issued and outstanding common stock.

The Bidder

The Bidder, Metro Pacific Investments Corporation, is a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the Republic of the Philippines with registered office at the 11th Floor MGO Building, Legaspi corner Dela Rosa Streets, Legaspi Village, Makati City, 1200 Philippines. MPIC was incorporated and registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("**SEC**") on March 15, 2006 to serve as an investment holding company and its shares were first listed on the PSE on December 15, 2006.

MPIC is 39.08% owned by Metro Pacific Holdings, Inc. ("**MPHI**"). MPHI is a Philippine corporation whose stockholders are Enterprise Investment Holdings, Inc. ("**EIHI**") (80.0%), Anabelle Lim (10.0%) and First Pacific International Limited ("**FPIL**"), a company incorporated in Bermuda and listed in Hong Kong through its subsidiaries, holds 40% equity interest in EIHI and investment financing, which under Hong Kong Generally Accepted Accounting Principles requires FPIL to account for the results and assets and liabilities of EIHI and its subsidiaries as FPIL group companies in Hong Kong.

MPIC holds interests in various companies with businesses in, among others, tollways, power distribution, water distribution and healthcare. MPIC owns approximately 99.85% of the outstanding common capital stock of MPTC.

Plans and Proposals of the Bidder Delisting

Following completion of the Tender Offer and subject to the approval of the Delisting by the PSE, all of the issued and outstanding common shares of MPTC will be delisted from, and will no longer be available for trading on, the PSE. This will have an impact on an MPTC shareholder's ability to sell his/her/its MPTC shares. In addition, any capital gains generated by an MPTC shareholder from any subsequent sale or transfer of his/her/its MPTC shares will be subject to the prevailing capital gains taxes and documentary stamp tax instead of the stock transaction tax applicable to sales transacted through the PSE.

Once MPTC is delisted from the PSE, MPTC will no longer be subject to the reporting obligations of a listed company under the applicable rules of the PSE. Likewise, subject to the provisions of the SEC and its implementing rules and regulations, MPTC may cease to be a reporting company as defined therein. Should MPTC cease to be a reporting person, the Bidder plans to cause MPTC to take such steps necessary to terminate its reporting obligations under the SEC and its implementing rules and regulations.

The MPTC Public Shareholders who will participate in the Tender Offer will receive payment for their MPTC Public Shares. On the other hand, the MPTC Public Shareholders who do not participate in the Tender Offer will continue to be shareholders of MPTC. In making a decision to participate in or abstain from the Tender Offer, MPTC Public Shareholders are advised to consider carefully the aforementioned impact of the Delisting on their MPTC Public Shares.

The Tender Offer

Please be informed that on October 22, 2012, the Bidder filed a Tender Offer Report (SEC Form 19-1) with the SEC and the PSE pursuant to Section 19 of the Securities Regulation Code in respect of shares of MPTC.

The Bidder is the registered and beneficial owner of an aggregate of 6,593,131,027 shares of common stock, which represent approximately 99.888% of all issued and outstanding shares of common stock of MPTC. The Bidder intends to acquire the MPTC Public Shares consisting of 7,484,167 shares of common stock, representing approximately 0.11% of all issued and outstanding shares of common stock of MPTC which are held by the MPTC Public Shareholders, and for this purpose, the Bidder shall implement the Tender Offer subject of this notice. The Tender Offer shall commence on 8:30 a.m. on October 29, 2012 and end at 12:00 noon of November 28, 2012 (the "**Tender Offer Period**"). The Tender Offer Period may be extended by the Bidder subject to any requisite regulatory approval. All the Tender Offer Shares that will have been accepted by the Bidder will be purchased by the Bidder by way of a block sale through the facilities of the PSE and crossed within five (5) trading days from the end of the Tender Offer Period, or on or around December 6, 2012 (the "**Cross Date**").

The purchase price for the acquisition of the Public Shares is Six Pesos and Fifty Centavos (₱6.50) per share payable in cash and in full on or about December 11, 2012, or three (3) trading days after the Cross Date (the "**Settlement Date**"), provided that such Public Shareholder tendering its Public Shares shall have obtained all the required approvals and authorizations to enable it to transfer the such Public Shares to the Bidder before the expiration of the Tender Offer, and other terms of the Offer as applicable have been complied with or satisfied.

Every Public Shareholder of record of MPTC is entitled to tender all or a portion of its Public Shares for acceptance and purchase by the Bidder during the Tender Offer Period, subject further to the terms of the Tender Offer attached to the Application. The Bidder has the right to reject or accept any application to tender shares (the "**Application**") if such Application is received after the end of the Tender Offer Period, or is not completed properly or lacks any of the required attachments or if the signature offered therein cannot be authenticated by MPTC's Stock Transfer Agent.

Tendering shareholders who hold stock certificates (**"Scrip Shareholders"**) should submit, within the Tender Offer Period, their duly endorsed stock certificates (or for those with lost stock certificates, one (1) original copy of a duly notarized affidavit of loss, a copy of the affidavit of loss as published in a newspaper of general circulation, affidavit of publication, and a bond) and three (3) copies of the duly accomplished Application together with the following requirements related thereto, to Bilveco Securities Corporation (the **"FA Agent"**) at Unit 3906B, East Tower Philippine Stock Exchange Centre Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Telephone No. (63) 6917 (Contact Person: Ms. Sheila Marie Aguilar) and Telephone No. 687-8961 local 2530 (Contact Person: Ms. Geraldine Lanz):

For corporate shareholders:

1. A certified true copy of each of the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws of the shareholder and latest amendments thereof;
2. A notarized Secretary's Certificate substantially in the form attached to the Application, setting forth resolutions of the shareholder's board of directors or governing body authorizing the tender and sale of such shareholder's Public Shares pursuant to the Tender Offer, designating signatories for the purpose and bearing the specimen signatures of those signatories;
3. A duly accomplished signature card, containing the specimen signatures of the authorized signatories of the shareholder validated by the corporate secretary and photocopies of two (2) valid identification cards of the authorized signatories containing the latter's photograph and specimen signature.

For individual shareholders:

1. Two (2) valid identification cards containing the photo and specimen signature of the shareholder;
2. For shareholders acting through an attorney-in-fact, a duly notarized Special Power of Attorney substantially in the form attached to the Application duly indorsement of stock certificate must be made by the shareholder himself);
3. A duly accomplished signature card containing the specimen signature of the shareholder and verified by his broker (the name of the broker and the broker's signatory must be specified) or officer of the bank (the name of the bank and the bank's officer must be specified) where he is maintaining an account.

The FA Agent will submit the share certificates for validation to MPTC's Stock Transfer Agent, Stock Transfer Services, Inc. Defective Applications (e.g., with discrepancy between the specimen signatures on file and the endorsement) must be corrected within the Tender Offer Period to avoid being rejected by the Bidder. Tendering Public Shareholders are strongly urged against tendering at the last minute to allow sufficient time to correct any deficiency in their application. Tendering Public Shareholders are also urged to indicate their telephone numbers in their respective application forms to allow the FA Agent to inform them immediately of any deficiency in their applications.

Tendering Public Shareholders whose shares are lodged with the Philippine Depository Trust Corporation ("**PDTC**") ("**Lodging Shareholders**") should instruct their brokers to electronically transfer their shares to the FA Agent for receipt by the FA Agent prior to 10:00 a.m. of November 28, 2012. Brokers should submit the Letter to Tender to the FA Agent as per the instructions to brokers given.

Shares received after the end of the Tender Offer Period shall be rejected, unless the Tender Offer Period is extended by the Bidder upon approval by the Commission. The shares tendered may be withdrawn by the shareholder of record at any time during the Tender Offer Period, but only up to 12:00 noon of November 28, 2012, by submitting a written request for withdrawal of the tendered shares to the FA Agent with a copy of the "Shareholder's Copy" of the Application issued by the FA Agent.

Before deciding to tender their shares, Public Shareholders are advised to read the Application, the terms of the Tender Offer and the SEC Form 19-1 (Tender Offer Report), which were filed by the Bidder with the SEC and the PSE. The Application form has been mailed to the MPTC Public Shareholders thru the Company's stock transfer agent, Securities Transfer Services, Inc. (STSI).

Under the PSE's Rules on Delisting, and more particularly on the section on Voluntary Delisting, a company applying for delisting must comply with, among other conditions, the following: (a) a tender offer to all stockholders of record of the company must be made; and (b) the company must submit a fairness opinion or valuation report, stating that from a financial point of view of the person making such opinion/report, based upon certain procedures followed and assumptions made, the terms and conditions of the tender offer are fair.

The Board of Directors of MPTC, upon the recommendation of MPTC's independent financial advisor, First Metro Investment Corporation, has concluded that the purchase price for MPTC Share is fair and reasonable under the circumstances. A copy of the report of the Independent Financial Advisor is attached as an annex to the SEC Form 19-1 filed by the Bidder with the SEC and the PSE.

The maximum aggregate purchase price of the Tender Offer Shares that may be payable by the Bidder under the Tender Offer is approximately Forty Eight Million Nine Hundred Seventeen Thousand Forty Seven Pesos (Php48,917,047). BDO Unibank, Inc. has confirmed that the Bidder has funds in an amount equivalent to Forty Eight Million Nine Hundred Seventeen Thousand Forty Seven Pesos (Php48,917,047), which is the maximum aggregate price of the Tender Offer Shares, deposited in the Bidder's account with BDO Unibank, Inc. The Bidder therefore, has resources available sufficient to satisfy full acceptance of the MPTC Public Shares.

For inquiries about the Bidder or the Tender Offer, please contact Ms. Sheila Marie Aguilar or Ms. Geraldine Lanz of the FA Agent at its address or telephone numbers set forth above.

Very truly yours,

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
METRO PACIFIC INVESTMENTS CORPORATION

all SALES Day!

P1

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5 reasons 'Sandy' will be epic

1. A Northbound hurricane

Hurricane "Sandy" is moving toward the northeast. At some point, it is expected to become what's known as an extratropical storm. Unlike a tropical storm like a hurricane, which gets its power from warm ocean waters, extratropical systems are driven by temperature contrasts in the atmosphere, at some point, Sandy will strike the East Coast.

Although Sandy is currently a hurricane, it's important not to focus too much on its official category as its premier path. It's a major concern that will affect a huge swath of the eastern U.S. regardless of exactly where it hits or its precise wind speed. For example, tropical storm-force winds can be felt 720 km away from the storm's center, according to the National Hurricane Center. The federal Emergency Management Agency has personnel and supplies spread as far west as the Ohio River Valley, said Craig Fugate, the agency's director.

2. Early winter storm

As part of Sandy's transition to an extratropical storm, it is expected to merge with a winter storm that the west, at which point it will become the powerful superstorm that has forecasters and officials all along the Eastern seaboard on edge. Winds from that storm system, which left snow in Rifle, Silverton, above above, are what will help pull Sandy back toward the US mainland from the open waters of the Atlantic.

3. Arctic air from the North

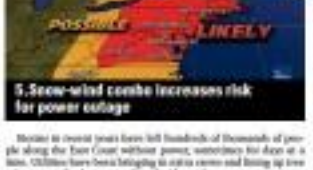
Frigid air coming south from Canada also is expected to get trapped into Sandy which will only help to strengthen the storm further and create winter storm conditions for some in the storm's path.

Officials are bracing for the worst: nearly a foot of rain, high winds and up to 90 cm of snow in the highest parts of the Appalachian Mountains from West Virginia to North Carolina.

4. High tides could worsen flooding

Further complicating matters is the possibility for dangerous storm surges. A full moon means the tides will be higher than usual, which will make it easier for the storm's powerful winds to push water into low-lying areas. That, coupled with the threat of 30 cm of rain, has officials working to shore up flood defenses.

Storm surge could reach 1.2 m to 2.4 m from Maryland to Rhode Island, forecasters say. And inland river flooding is also a major concern, federal officials said Sunday.



5. Snow-wind combo increases risk for power outage

Storms in recent years have left hundreds of thousands of people along the East Coast without power, sometimes for days at a time. Utilities have been bringing in extra crews and lining up tree trimmers so they're prepared, and with good reason.

The superstorm brings two possibilities for knocking out electricity. For one, hurricane-force winds of at 118 kph could send tree branches into power lines, or even topple stable trees and power poles. Those left standing could succumb to snow, which could weigh down still-leafy branches enough to also topple trees.

Millions of people are expected to lose power at some point during Sandy and many of those folks will likely not have power restored for many days. AP/The Weather Channel

US East Coast shuts down

From page A1

Up to 60 centimeters of snow were forecast for mountainous parts of West Virginia.

The center of the storm was projected to come ashore Monday night (Tuesday morning in Manila) on New Jersey, meaning the worst of the surge could be in the northern part of that state and in New York City on Long Island. Higher tides brought by a full moon are compounding the threat in the metropolitan area of about 20 million people.

The storm is expected to topple trees, damage buildings, cause flooding and widespread power outages over the next few days.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (Fema) Director Craig Fugate warned that the "time for preparing and talking is about over," as timely tracks to map up the Atlantic sea coalition remains of what other weather systems that could turn it into one of the most hurricane storms on record in the United States.

"People need to be acting now," he said.

States of emergency

Sandy, a Category 1 hurricane with sustained winds of 120 kilometers per hour as early Monday, was blasted for 65 deaths in the Caribbean before it began churning northward, paralyzed the Eastern Seaboard.

As of 5 a.m. Monday, it was centered about 610 km southsoutheast of New York City, moving to the north at 24 kph, with hurricane-force winds extending an unusual 388 km from its center.

States of emergency were declared from North Carolina to Connecticut.

Airlines canceled more than 7,000 flights and Amtrak began suspending passenger train service in the Northeast. New York and Philadelphia moved to shut down their subways, buses and commuter trains on Sunday night and announced that schools would be closed on Monday. Boston, Washington and Baltimore followed suit shortly.

The grounding of flights spread to Europe. Delays rippled across the United States, affecting travelers in cities such as Baltimore and Cincinnati. The typhoon also spread to Europe and Asia, where airlines canceled or delayed flights to New York and Washington from cities that are major travel hubs, including Berlin, Paris, Tokyo and Hong Kong.

US stock and options markets shut down on Monday and possibly remain shut on Tuesday, the exchange operator said, giving back on a plan that would have kept electronic trading going on Monday.

As the storm knee down on the New York area, regulators, exchanges and brokers gave increasingly worried about the integrity of markets and the ability of employees.

It is the first time the market has closed for a weather-related event since Hurricane "Gloria" on Sept. 27, 1985.

Evacuations

As rain from the leading edges of the monster hurricane began to fall over the Northeast, tens of thousands of people in coastal areas from Maryland to Connecticut were under orders to leave their homes.

That included 50,000 in Delaware alone and 30,000 in Atlantic City, New Jersey, where the city's 12 casinos were ordered to shut down for only the fourth time in the 34-year history of legalized gambling there.

'Wall of water'

Authorities warned that the biggest US city could get hit with a 3.3 metre "wall of water" that could sweep parts of Lower Manhattan, flood subway tunnels and cripple the network of electrical and communications lines that are vital to the nation's financial center.

Forecasters said the storm could bring close to 30 centimeters of rain, a potentially lethal storm surge and punishing winds extending hundreds of kilometers outward from the storm's center.

It could also dump up to 60cm of snow in Kentucky, North Carolina and West Virginia.

'Worst-case scenario'

Louis Uccellini, environmental prediction chief for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Noaa), told reporters in Washington that Sandy's vast size could bring "worst-case scenario" conditions to New Jersey, the worst of the storm surge could be just to the north, in New York City. Long Island and northern New Jersey.

Forecasters said that because of giant oceans and high tides could be worse by a full moon, the

HIGH AND DRY People pull their luggage at Times Square as Hurricane "Sandy" approaches New York on Sunday. Tens of millions of East Coast residents scrambled on Sunday to prepare for the severe weather disturbance, which could make landfall as the largest storm to hit the United States, bringing battering winds, flooding and snow in many areas. REUTERS

metropolitan area of about 20 million people could get dammed with 1.2-2 m mid of water.

"This is the worst-case scenario," Uccellini said.

'Don't be stupid'

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg warned people to ban biking areas of Lower Manhattan and Queens to get out.

"If you don't evacuate, you are not only endangering your life, you are also endangering the lives of the first responders who are going in to rescue you," he said. "This is a serious and dangerous storm."

New Jersey's Democratic Governor Chris Christie was less polite: "Don't be stupid. Get out."

New York called off school on Monday for the city's 1.1 million students and announced it would suspend its entire mass transit system starting Sunday night because of the risk of flooding, shutting down a system on which more than 5 million riders a day depend.

Officials also postponed Monday's reopening of the Staten Island Ferry, which had been closed for a year for $20 million in renovations.

The United Nations canceled all meetings at its headquarters in Manhattan.

Broadway shows were canceled on Monday and Tuesday as were performances at Carnegie Hall.

Obama message

In Washington, President Barack Obama promised the government would "respond big and respond fast" after the storm has passed.

"My message to the storm is as well as to the experts is anything they need, we will be there, and we will see through red tape. We are not going to get bogged down with a lot of rules," he said.

Obama also placed the tonight conference "to remind like this, one of the things that Americans do is we pull together and we help one one another. And so, these may be elderly populations in your area. Check on your neighbor. Make sure your friend. Make sure that they are prepared. If we do, then we're going to get through this storm in just fine."

The storm forced President Obama and Republican rival Mitt Romney to rearrange their campaign schedules in the crucial closing days of the presidential race. And early voting on Monday in Washington and Maryland was cancelled.

Shelters across the region began filling to people.

"We were told to get the heck out. I was going to stay, but it's better to be safe than sorry," said Hugh Phillips, who was one of the first in line where a Red Cross shelter in Lewes, Delaware, opened its doors.

"I think this one's going to do us in," said Mark Reynolds, who boarded up his bed-and-tackle shop in Outer Beaufort South, Maryland. "I've been in the storm business for a long time and I've been used to past storms, ensuring, cut the names of Hurricanes "Isaac" and "Irene" and spray-painting "family" next to them.

'Get out'

"I got a call from a friend of mine from Florida last night who said, 'Mark. Get out.' If it's not the storm, it'll be the aftermath. People are going to be fighting in the streets over gasoline and food."

At least twice as many state journalists were ordered to the Internals training area Sunday morning at New York's Penn Station. Many were trying to leave New York earlier than planned.

The storm and 1 p.m. trains to Boston were sold out. Stanhill Brown, who had visited his fiancee's parents, roommates, and his traveling companions, Mary Shiloh, were waiting for an Amtrak train to Syracuse, the destination they chose after attempts to book flights through multiple airlines failed.

"I just want to be somewhere else except New York City," said McGrath, who will stay with friends in Syracuse until the and Sam can get a flight. "I don't want to risk it." Reporting by Jim Puzzanghera and Evan Perez/Times Bloom Service

Hurricane to spawn tsunami-like waves

From page A1

Storm surges like these account, pumping Sandy as it churns north are, as their name implies, a function of strong winds driving sea much water into no small expanse.

But other factors, some of which will come into play as this storm approaches the New York area, can combine to make surges higher and more destructive, Kimpatrick said.

"A storm surge is really caused by one thing," said Pat Fitzpatrick, an associate research professor at Mississippi State University who studies the phenomenon.

"When a storm is approaching land, it starts to encounter shallow water. The water tends to pile up," Fitzpatrick added.

But the height of a surge depends to a great extent on how shallow the ocean is near the coast. "The shallower the water is, for larger distances, the more surge will become a," Fitzpatrick said.

The New York area, which is expected to see some of the largest surges, up to 3.3 metres above the ground according to the National Weather Service, has extensive shallow water offshore. Along the coastline, inlets and other narrow features can make surges rise even higher by further confining the water, Fitzpatrick said.

Adding to the potential for damaging surges was Hurricane Sandy's size — which at up to 965 kilometers per hour now as area more than 800 kilometers northeast of its center — and sustained winds.

Many storms hurricanes move parallel to the coast for long distances and then, pushed by high-level winds, veer northward, eventually "spinning out," or losing their energy over the North Atlantic.

But by the time it nears New York on Monday, Hurricane Sandy will have traveled hundreds of kilometers from the coast for several days, picking up enormous amounts of water over the open ocean.

Surge amplified

The storm's winds, which are rotating in counterclockwise, are creating an area of strong ocean waves north and east of the storm's center. "That amplifies the surge," said Louis Uccellini, director of the National Weather Service's environmental Predictions, part of the National Weather Service.

As Hurricane Sandy approaches New York, forecasters expect it to hit a roadblock. Instead of moving northeast and out to sea, the storm will be forced to move west by a strong and persistent region of high pressure in the northeastern Canada and southern Greenland.

"It's quite unusual to have this westward component of motion in a hurricane track," said Jeff Masters, director of meteorology for the website Weather Underground.

As it moves west, the hurricane is expected to make landfall on New Jersey late Monday or early Tuesday, perpendicular to the coast. Such a head-on hit can produce worse surges than a glancing blow because more water can be driven into estuaries and harbors.

The surges are also expected to be either historic or slightly higher than normal because of the full moon.

"The bottom line for New York and New Jersey and Long Island, I would it that they are going to have the worst of the surge and coastal inundation," Uccellini said.

Winter storm

But storm surges are only one aspect of this storm that makes it potentially deadly for inland.

As Hurricane Sandy is consumed, that will contribute to another feature — the transition to more of a winter storm that is expected to bring high winds and large amounts of inland snow to parts of the mid-Atlantic states and into Appalachian and the Ohio Valley.

Even Lake Michigan may see winds of 80 kph, Masters said, before the storm finally dies out later in the week.

The storm gathered energy the way all tropical storms and hurricanes do — from warm water that occurred as it passed over the relatively warm ocean water, but as it moves further north and then west, it will gain heat energy in this way.

Instead, it will encounter a trough of cold, high air that has dipped down from Canada. As this cold front meets the warm air of the storm, the cold air will sink, adding to the storm's energy. This strengthening, caused by what is known as baroclinic forcing, will enable the storm to unleash more mayhem as it moves inland.

Storm energetics

"The thermal gradient as this trough digs in is a very important part of energization of this storm," Uccellini said.

The shift from a tropical storm to what forecasters call an extratropical one will also affect the structure of the storm as they come to prefer, Uccellini said.

Instead of the cylinder up being to the north and west of the storm's center, it will loop around to the north.

That will contribute heavy rains and snow to parts of Pennsylvania and Maryland, and perhaps up to a foot or more in parts of western Virginia, eastern Kentucky, West Virginia and southeastern Ohio. New York Times News Service

Antonio Lidar Tony Bergonia

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Black sand mining stops in Cagayan

BUGUEY, Cagayan—Magnetite mining operations in this town and in nearby coastal areas have stopped after agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) raided a mining site in nearby Aparri town and arrested 14 of its Chinese workers last week, an official of an environmental group said.

Ati Aladay, president of the Federation of Environmental Advocates of Cagayan (Fenac), said heavy equipment belonging to two Chinese firms had stopped digging activities. The heavy-duty trucks had suspended delivery of processed magnetite or black sand to Port Irene in Santa Ana town.

Fenac is an alliance of people's organizations opposing black sand extraction and mining activities in the province's northern coastal towns.

"We have received information that the Chinese were alarmed by the NBI raid, so they are probably playing it safe for now," Aladay said.

Before the raid was conducted on Oct. 22, he said, black sand extraction was continuing despite stoppage orders issued by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau and the provincial government.

Two Chinese firms, Sea You Philippines Mining Trade Ltd. and Lian Sing, operate in at least 18 coastal villages here.

"We were given assurance that the NBI will stay here for as long as it takes in order to stop these illegal mining operations. We have been warned in the meantime of their violent reputation. But we are optimistic that the measures have enforcers here," Aladay said.

Residents in Aparri and Gonzaga town also noticed the absence of mining activities since the arrest of the Chinese workers.

Trucks loaded with magnetite have not been seen plying the Dugo-Dan Victoria highway, the main road to Port Irene which traverses the towns of Camalaniugan, Buguey, Santa Teresita, Gonzaga and Santa Ana. Before, the residents said, as many as 40 trucks would pass the area daily.

"The transport has stopped but the processing of black sand continued. From a distance we can see dark mountains moving—separating the magnetite from the sand and disposing of their wastes in ponds," said Rachelle Gaiana, president of Gonzaga Alliance of Environmental Protection and Preservation.

Hector Eduard Seologo, NBI regional director for Cagayan Valley, could not be reached if there are operations against black sand mining operators in Aparri and nearby areas. "[The NBI] central office is still evaluating the results of the previous operation," he said.

He was referring to the arrest of the 14 Chinese in Barangay Dodan in Aparri. The workers, who included five engineers and a geologist, were found to have entered the country illegally and were said to be lacking work permits.

They were charged before the Department of Justice in Tuguegarao City on Wednesday with violations of the Philippine Mining Act of 1995. They were released on Thursday after posting bail of P2,500 each.

Gonzaga Mayor Carlito Pentecostes Jr. said he had asked the Chinese companies to disturb the presence of illegal workers in their midst. "They assured me that their workers have been issued all the necessary papers," he said. —Melvin Gascon, Inquirer Northern Luzon

PEACE GAME Members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and Army soldiers of the 103rd Infantry Brigade join a friendly game of "tug of war" in Maravat City during the celebration of the "Kanduri" thanksgiving event for the newly signed peace framework agreement between the government and the MILF and the Bid'Adha or Islamic Feast of Sacrifice. —MARK ALDEN RALPH RAMOS/INQUIRER MINDANAO

NEWS BRIEFS

■ BACOLOD CITY

Swindling raps vs Cameroonian

A CAMEROONian national is facing swindling charges after two Filipinos were duped into believing that their money would be tripled by making fake bills.

Police yesterday filed the complaint at the city prosecutor's office against Stephen Ngwanyam, 34, of BP 4082 Bonaka Pre-Cherbaur Post, Cameroon, three days after he was arrested in an entrapment operation.

Ngwanyam said he did not know the complainants and denied asking money from them.

Supt. Santiago Rapsi, head of the Bacolod City Police Special Operations Group, said the identification cards recovered from Ngwanyam showed two names, issued by the Canadian government in the name of Tony Anderson; a United Nations ID issued to Winston Patrick; a driver's license in the name of Samuel Smith; a Metrobank ATM card with the name Stephen Ngwanyam and a Canadian driver's license under the name of Samuel Kamga. —Cecil P. Suner, Inquirer Visayas

■ DAVAO CITY

New Zealander held for rape

A 50-YEAR-OLD New Zealand citizen was arrested on Friday for allegedly raping two girls, police said.

David William Wakefield did not resist when a warrant for his arrest was presented by police and staff members of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), said Supt. Rolando Galino, Malagusan City police chief.

Citing police and DSWD records, Galino said Wakefield molested two girls, aged 12 and 13, in a hotel in Davao City last week.

Wakefield was taken for a complaint to Mawab, Lupon municipality, also in Mindanao, Galino said. The criminal case the girls positively identified Wakefield when they accompanied lawmen to a hotel where he was staying before flying to Manila en route to Mozambique.

Policemen recovered Wakefield's mobile phone with nude photos of the complainants, Galino said charges of statutory rape and human trafficking would be filed against the foreigner, who is detained at the city police detention cell. —Edwin O. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao

■ LAGAS CITY

Grenade blast

A GRENADE injected inside the compound of Gomez Rizal National High School early Saturday, but no one was reported injured.

Police have yet to establish who threw the grenade at the school's extension wing at 1 a.m., said SPO4 Manuel Peñaranda of the city police.

The blast site is a two-meter-x-many from a police outpost and the high school's main building. It did not damage any of the school's facilities. A school security guard sensed the police as soon as he heard the blast.

—Frinnie Arcadio, Inquirer Northern Luzon

4 Cebu buses suspended after crash

CEBU (CITY)—Land transportation authorities have suspended the operations of four buses of Jeguo's Bus Liner after one of the company's vehicles crashed in Toledo City resulting in the death of seven people and injuries to 40 others.

The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board issued the 30-day suspension pending completion of an investigation. It did not cover seven other buses in an anticipation of the expected demand for transportation on All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day and the agency's regional director, Manuel Calicon.

On Saturday night, a 30-ton bus rammed into a concrete fence in Barangay Lubogan in Toledo, 46 kilometers from the city, killing six passengers on the spot. The seventh fatality died at Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center.

The injured were brought to Cosmos Corpus Hospital and Toledo City Hospital.

Calicon said the agency did not see any evidence of brake malfunction, but added that several inspections had yet to be made before a conclusion is made. —Carmel Loise Matutes, Inquirer Visayas

OPAPP AMBASSADORS

Artists, footballers bring peace message to North Cotabato folk

By Nikko Dizon

ALEOSAN, North Cotabato—Three peace ambassadors brought music and football to this northern Mindanao town, one has seen strife and uprising for years and sees hope only in the promise of peace brought by the peace framework agreement forged by the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

"Our biggest role as peace ambassadors is to [express] peace as an everyday thought in the minds of everyone," said actor Jeffrey "Jeff" Quinco in a press conference here.

Quinco, singer Ike Sweet, members of the Ariel Football team and the Philippine Malditos, and "King of Moro Music" Datu Ehsmirrol Baraman came to Aleosan as part of the government's effort to bring an understanding of the recently signed agreement to the communities.

Ehsmirrol was among the three caucus singers by an MILF breakaway group led by Ameril Umra Kato in 2000.

Ehsmirrol, a native of Aleosan, said he was "overwhelmed" by the reception of the people.

"I'm happy to be back in my hometown. I'm happy to see my people," he said.

Ehsmirrol himself has begun recording a song with Philippine-born Allan Panda Lloids aka spit-de-up of the Grammy Award-winning Black Eyed Peas.

Aplaydo up is among the peace ambassadors of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (Opapp), most of whom are celebrities who share their story and talent to "use it to help the government reach as many people as it could in an effort to promote peace in strife-torn regions, particularly in Mindanao.

Among the Opapp peace messengers are Christian Bautista, Gerald Anderson, Ghot Ir. Bataller, Aiza Cortez, Bordless Fernandez, Megan Young and Mikael Daez.

Opapp spokesperson Dolly Cameron said the artists were helping the government spread the peace message through their music and other talents. The office is renting the artists as alliance-connecting songs for peace by its ambassadors.

At Aleosan's crowded court yesterday, more than a hundred people of all ages, Muslims and Christians alike, gathered for Opapp's medical mission and football program. Quinco described the event as a sharing of a feast of sure people.

"After 40 years, we can now smell real peace. I hope the framework agreement will be the most treated lasting peace," said Quinco, son of the late comedy king Dolphy.

"To live in peace is a right of everybody," he added.

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SBMA, Olongapo to sell water utility shares

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—The cash-strapped Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) is divesting its shares in the water utility, which supplies to users in this free port as well as residents in nearby Olongapo City, according to a top agency official.

SBMA Chair Roberto Garcia said the agency would divest its 20-percent share in Subic Water and Sewerage Co. Inc. (Subic Water), the country's first water and sewerage system to be developed through a build-operate-transfer scheme.

The firm, formed by a joint venture agreement in 1996, is owned by consortium firm Hyflux Ltd. and Philippine utilities operator Benpres Holdings Industries Ltd., SBMA and the Olongapo City government.

Subic Water acquired the contract to manage and operate the exclusive Olongapo Water District in 1996 on the condition that the City government would be entitled to 30 percent of its shares of stocks.

Garcia said it was ripe for SBMA to divest its shares to free up capital in the water utility.

Asked how much SBMA was going to make from the sale, Garcia said he expected to fetch "around P500 million."

Olongapo City is also set to follow the free port's lead, and has been holding public hearings on its proposal to sell its shares in Subic Water.

Olongapo City Councilor Lina Perez, who is conducting the public hearings on behalf of the city government, said, "Now is the right time to capitalize on the current uptrend of the Philippine Stock Market Index to convert Olongapo's shares into funds that could be used to spend on much needed infrastructure projects and other priority programs of the city government."

She said the move would stop fees the city government "from paying debt conditions of interest since because it is a regulator, a consumer and part owner of the utility."

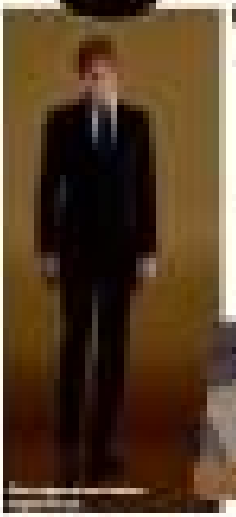
She said the city government is resolved to use the earnings from the sale for the repair and reconstruction of roads, drainage and flood control systems, health and poverty alleviation programs.

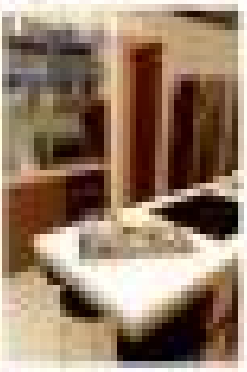
Robert Gonzaga, Inquirer Central Luzon

MARKHAM GONZALEZ

Man of Luxury

Things of luxury for men





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OPINION

Cooling on coal

EDITORIAL

ENVIRONMENTALISTS and investors are again at loggerheads over two proposed coal-fired power plants in Palawan, the last frontier for conservationists. The conflict though is not exclusive to that island. It is also taking place in Davao, Isabela, Iloilo and Batanes. It does seem that while many countries are moving away from "dirty" fuel (like coal) toward clean or "green" energy, the Philippines is going in the opposite direction.

On Nov. 5, GN Power Ltd., a joint venture between Filipino and American investors, is set to start the testing and commissioning of a 600-MW coal-fired power facility in Semirara. Full commercial operations is scheduled in early 2013. In Sarangani, a P19-billion, 200-MW coal-fired plant is also rising, and a 100-MW facility, also using coal, will be built in Zamboanga—both owned by patronage-ridden Aboitiz family.

In Subic, Redondo Peninsula Energy Inc., a venture among Alsthra Power Corp., Manila Electric Co. and Taiwan Cogeneration Corp., will put up a 600-MW coal-fired plant. Another coal-fired facility, with a 300-MW capacity, will be built by Rizal Electric Power Corp. to supply the power needs of the Rizal-owned Hanjin Heavy Industries, the biggest locator in the economic zone.

Aguila-led AC Energy Holdings Inc. and A. Brown Inc. are spending P12.5 billion to put up a 135-MW coal-fired power plant in Iloilo. Commercial operations are targeted to start in 2015.

In Negros Occidental, Cadiz City Mayor Patrick Escalante is fully supporting coal-fired power plants in his area, saying two firms have proposed to reclaim 50 hectares near the Cadiz port to serve as a site for a 100-MW facility and in an economic zone.

The rush to build several of these facilities—which proponents insist are cheaper and faster to put up—followed the warning from outgoing Energy Secretary Jose Rene Almendras of a major power shortage by 2015 if no new baseload plants would be built.

But why coal? The ill effects of this "dirty" fuel have been chronicled here and abroad. Take the case of the 600-MW Manidoc coal-fired plant in Zambales. Pushed to its completion in 1998 although everyone seemed to be against it, the harmful effects of the plant's operation became evident several years later, affecting mostly farmers and fishermen, complained Manidoc Mayor Desiree Edora. "The fruits of trees, specially mango trees for which we are well known for, have been stunted. They do not grow as big as before. Fishermen report less catch," Edora lamented, adding that aside from the ash that fell on the trees, the power plant discharged its waste materials directly to Oyon Bay.

Before the Manidoc plant was acquired by the US-based AES Corp. from Hopewell in 2000, an Asian Development Bank report had pointed out that "the operating performance of the plant has declined since 2000 because of inadequate maintenance and insufficient capital investments. The plant's operations have been characterized by low capacity, poor availability, low reliability, and violations of environmental, health and safety conditions. The plant's emissions are unable to meet clean emission limits at any load."

Proponents of coal-fired power facilities counter out that new technologies now lessen the plants' harmful impact on the environment and that the renewable energy option is too costly. However, Bro. Mariano, chair of the National Renewable Energy Board, points out that the proposed feed-in tariff (FIT) rates for hydro and biomass power at P6.15 and P7 per kWh, respectively, are already lower than the approved electricity rates for coal plants in 2011. Mariano says that coal advocates usually emphasize the price advantage of coal, "but that cost advantage does not factor the ill effects of carbon in the atmosphere… hidden costs [that] are not borne by the electricity or transport payer, but by those in the community whose health are affected."

The Philippine Environment Monitor estimates that, annually, due to air pollution the Philippine economy sustains $1.5 billion and the Philippine spends more than $480 million in direct costs on health expenses. The World Bank says that 5,000 annual premature deaths in Metro Manila may be due to respiratory and cardiovascular diseases from exposure to pollution.

It is difficult to understand how the Aquino administration can push the construction of so many coal-fired power facilities after launching the National Renewable Energy Program, an initiative to lessen carbon dioxide emissions.

A reconsideration on coal-fired power plants would be in order.

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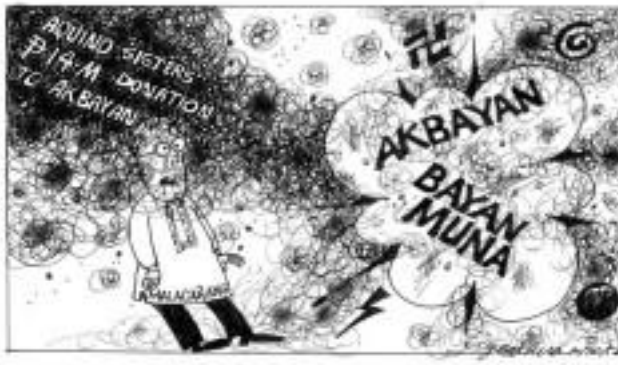
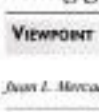


Etching gravestones

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado



"STILL THERE for a next time?" Roberto asked as we pulled up before the Rome funeral. We had crisscrossed from Tuscany. In Poggio village, an ilex conifer is the genius of Rome; a hilltop DK offered, filled in on antebellum accidents. The next day, we'd fly back to our Rosegarth mansion. "Let me give you an elevator," Roberto said. "Just in case."

All Souls' Day is marked Friday. He'se added Roberto's name to the list of departed kin and friends for the Requiem Mass. He just died here, gasping for breath. "Life is changed not taken away," the Mass preface will say.

"Death is not the extinguishing of life." 1952 Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore wrote. "It is putting out the lamp because dawn has come."

Araw ng mga Patay (Day of the Dead) will be celebrated Nov. 2. The day before is what our grandparents called "Bisperas ng Santos." All Saints' Day is when people flood into cemeteries for days of remembrance.

Like the year before, "de saper" repairs swirl about cemeteries. Shopkeepers, meanwhile blasting its overcrowded corneriers, vacated temporarily by squatters. Don't put up posters depicting your dears, the Church warned 2013 candidates.

"We've forgotten" say the family stokers. One holds the ashes of our mother and two younger brothers. A line from John (11:22) is carved in the headstones: "I am the resurrection and the life." The wife and I received the next niche for ourselves "when the days be fulfilled, and then shall they walk with thy fathers." We're still on decks what Roberto's niche inscription will be.

"Death pleaths my sins and says 'Live…I am coming,'" Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote on his 90th birthday. All Souls' Day misbrawls with the cheer restaurants and pans of human statistics. Who hasn't cried in funerals of 6th or 12th? Before the tomb of his friend Socrates, Xenophon wept.

"We're in the middle of life," we recall telling Press Foundation of Asia officers. "Don't say that," publisher Eugenio "Gene" Lopez Jr. quickly remonstrated. "We still have plenty of time." Before the year ended, Gene was gone.

"Remember not to promise yourself this next morning," Thomas a' Kempis commanded. "In the morning, consider that you may not live till nightfall…. Many die when they least think of it… A man is here today. And tomorrow, he is gone. And when he is taken out of sight, he is also quickly out of mind."

It is a wholesome thought to pray for the dead, says the Book of Maccabees (12th B.C.). Some 2,500 years before Easter's empty tomb, Job crabbed, "My bedcoverer lives… and will stand forth upon the earth. After my skin shall have been destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God."

Cata-combs in Rome show Christians, hiding from persecution, praying for the departed. In 998 A.D., Benedictine abbot Odilo of Cluny pulled Nov. 2 for this remembrance. This practice spread to other countries, including The Philippines.

At Mother's watering hole for journalists, Manila Bulletin editor in chief Ginggoy Johan and Comez scribbled, on a scratch pad, names of colleagues who had passed on. They included Joseph "Joe" Bonus and Cesar Pobre, Philippine Daily Inquirer's Dave Boncan and Cesar Pobre, ex-Mayor who was salvaged for his book on the Marcos "Conjugal Dictatorship," and the captain of the newsroom. Ross did half a century of journalism up to many names!

"We give them back to you, O Lord, who first gave them to us," an ancient prayer for All Souls' Day says. "For…to you do not lose its going, as we know we has been by their return…." Death is only a horizon. And a horizon is the limit of our sight.

"We thank you for the deep sense of mystery that lay beyond our mortal days. … Lift us up, that we may see further, as unto by one, you gather scattered families, from the dimension, earth and weariness of time to the peace of eternity."

The catechism teaches: A communion of believers can reach across the divide of death and shares the grace that surges into eternal life. We belong to a communion of saints: a family of the living and the dead, bound together by sacraments, prayer and praise. Dhing's self-grave to his love, until they see God as He is.

"We can talk with those called before us," Orthodox professor Jim Belliveau says. Reconciliation that wasn't possible before their deaths can now occur. "Based on the communion of saints, we have privileged access to each other. We can finally speak those words that we couldn't speak before, make the amends and speak the apologies we owe." We can touch across death's divide."

There are copied "C" saints. There names ring out weekly, the Litany of Saints is chanted: Mary, mother of Christ, with Joseph; Francis of Assisi, Teresa of Avila, Ignatius Loyola, Thomas of Aquino, Lorenzo Ruiz of Manado and after him Dec. 2's canonization trio, Pedro Calung and of the Visayas.

Those who have small inner "saints" from saints, teachers, barbers to nuns and market vendors. Despite their flaws, these observers may and women serve God in neighbors.

"Here comes everybody's feast," author James Joyce wrote of All Souls' Day.

Pope Benedict reminded the dead into the hands of God where they were laid in the grave," says the reasoned agreed statement from the Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission. "And on this day we are united before God in our remembrance of them."

All around the Philippines, B.C. visions of late tab: "We will destroy death for ever … That the Lord God will wipe away the tears from every face."

(email: juan_mercado77@yahoo.com)

Outside looking in

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I WAS one of those who followed the 2008 US elections with a passion, believing along with much of the world that it was a historic one were not just for Americans, but for humanity. And I was one of those who thrilled to Barack Obama's soaring words, "Change has come to America," after he won over John McCain, pronouncing how vast and fair the change has taken place in his inauguration speech when he told the story of how his father couldn't even get into some places during his time. Three years more on the world in large is now day had dawned. There was reason for the world to rejoice a new way had come.

The hope turned out to be fool's gold. The dawn turned out to be streaks of light from bombs exploding in the distance. I took in the US elections with a passion, but I had to be content to observe, after he won over John McCain, pronouncing how vast and fair the change has taken place in his inauguration speech when he told the story of how his father couldn't even get into some places during his time. Three years more on the world in large is now day had dawned. There was reason for the world to rejoice a new way had come.

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I'll course only the American voters can do something about it, but that too is what scares the s--t out of me. It's not just Philippine elections that have got me all riled up these days, the US elections do too. Probably more so. At least the subject of Philippine elections is that there are a comedy, the subject of American elections is that they are perfectly serious. Where in fact they share a country and people that are living in a twilight zone, indulging in a major reality.

Nothing reveals it more than two sequential assumptions in the elections.

The first is that the United States remains what Obama calls "the indispensable nation," the daily recognized leader of the world, the moral compass of the universe. Obama just so had to feature in pushing this case. He has criticized the Iraq War and Romney for supporting it during Bubya's time. And during the third debate, when Romney kept harping on Iran's nuclear program, Obama said, "Governor, you've been all over the map when it comes to Iran. You've said that we should attack Iran. You've said that we should not attack Iran. You've said that we should have sanctions. You've said that we should have engagement. You've said that we should have regime change. You've said that we should not have regime change. You've said that we should have a military option on the table. You've said that we should not have a military option on the table. You've said that we should have a military option on the table. You've said that we should not have a military option on the table. You've said that we should have a military option on the table. You've said that we should not have a military option on the table

ARMM to Bangsamoro: a 'Golden Transition'?

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

"SECONDLING TO original growth pole rules as average of 14 years of peace," writes the World Bank in its 2011 World Development Report (WDR) that focused on development challenges facing conflict-affected areas. Studying forty-two country studies since the WDR 2011, and closer to home, Mindanao's experience and research that was through civil war and subnational violence conflict. The report further asserts: "Today can take many years to recover as a result of investor perception of risk... it takes on average 20 years for violent recurrence to be cut in half."

Will it take that long for Muslim Mindanao to reap the so-called peace dividend, as the recently signed framework peace agreement will have the government begun to Muslim Mindanao (AB-ARMM) into a new entity called "Bangsamoro"? Need it take that long? The people of these long strife-torn areas have waited for far too long. To have to wait for yet another 10-20 years before their local economies could keep in step with the rest of the Philippine economy is to create a recipe for more violence.

All Filipinos stand to benefit from lasting peace and development in Mindanao. We need to work together to make peace work in these areas where a whole generation has known nothing but poverty, war and conflict. Where peace is the norm — the timeless message of John Lennon's 1969 dirge — has lately become a popular call. In practical terms, making peace work would entail normalizing the economic attracting investments, and creating lasting jobs and livelihood opportunities for those who have known no other work but to carry arms and fight battles with fellow Filipinos. I have written enough on why it makes good sense to invest in Mindanao, and will not repeat them here. Suffice it to say that others, local Foreign and Local, can already discern sound not only but may not be profitable if they have actually done good business. These stories are told in a forthcoming booklet jointly published by the AsiaEDI, ASEAN Regional Board of Investments, ASEAN Business Council and Management Association of the Philippines titled "Investing in and Making It Insights from Successful Investors in Muslim Mindanao."

The experiences of these firms — including multinational (Unilever, Malaysian-owned Agusan Philippines Inc., and nearly century-old Malbog Industrial and Commercial Corp.) — provide valuable investment and work until 12 years to share their studies in Muslim Mindanao. We envision a time with the right legal framework and the support of all concerned, working together and doing their part, we can all help Bangsamoro succeed. In so doing, we would help ourselves with sustained economic development for the whole country in the years ahead.

The idea is to make investing in Muslim Mindanao especially attractive during the interim period leading to the agreed establishment of the new Bangsamoro entity sometime by 2016. In order to accomplish this, the Philippine Export-Import Credit Agency (PhilEXIM) may be called upon to do the same, especially for domestic investors. On the other side, big-name domestic investors may be called upon to help encourage "investment missions" to Bangsamoro. After all, "mission are" need not mean "unprofitable." As such, Bangsamoro may not only the world's poorest.

Is it daunting? Am I being naively idealistic? Maybe so. But all great achievements started with dreamers. And like many Filipinos, I dream of a peaceful and prosperous Mindanao, where much of the economic energy would come from Bangsamoro itself.

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PPP in health

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

SOME 1,000 government health workers walked out of their stations last Thursday to protest what they feared and denounced as a plan to "privatize" government hospitals.

The workers said the move entails privatization, beginning with the National Kidney and Transplant Institute, the National Center for Mental Health and the Philippine Heart Center. Once these are turned over to private hands, they will no longer be accessible to the poor, who will be priced out of the market.

As it happens, the protests took place a few days after the launching of "PPP (Private-Public Partnership) in Health Month 2011," a gathering at the Asian Development Bank of local and foreign investors, health care providers, private hospitals, local chief executives, leaders of the health sector, and academicians and researchers.

Held for the first time in June, "PPP in Health Month" sought to "showcase the opportunities because more efficient and at the same time more for reaching health services for the public by harnessing the strengths of both public and private health sectors."

In the keynote speech, read for President Aquino by Health Secretary Enrique Ona, the President said that in the past two years, the government had been exploring ways "to maximize the health resources and improve the health care system." In the same, Ona, former following the launch, One said the "PPP in Health" was in line with the "current thrust of the Aquino government which recognizes the essential role of the private sector."

* * *

"The public health system, said Ona, has proven over the years to be woefully inadequate, and that to provide health coverage to every Filipino, the private sector must also be drawn in to participate in providing services, sharing updated knowledge, and modeling best practices in health delivery. "Regardless of how much government would give (in share of the budget) to the health sector, it is not enough," Ona said, "There will never be enough funds for healthcare (for everyone)."

Background material lays out the premise: "At the backdrop is a precarious health situation where there are still an alarming 80 infant deaths for every 1,000 live births in Asia — almost double that of Latin America and the Caribbean. Government's journey through each complication that require them to make changing disease patterns, rising costs of medical technology and equitable access to healthcare to their population."

The same material says the program introduces "private sector funds and expertise in areas that are normally the responsibility of the government."

* * *

SO FOR the legacy of an anticipated hike in health costs, Ona said "the key to making the PPP in health a success is to educate and educate the health system," expressing optimism that "soon all (Filipinos) will be covered by (Philhealth)," paving over complicated procedures within health-related facilities.

The goal of the PPP in health, added the secretary, is a health system that is "affordable, accessible and of high quality."

For now, the PPP in health is still under study, although the health secretary says he indeed intends to start with a new Orthopedic Center which will stand on government-owned land, staffed with a government workforce, but will be equipped with "machinery and equipment financed through a partnership with the private sector."

Still, acknowledges Geoffrey Hamilton of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), it's still early days for PPP in health. Saying that they are still exploring, "international best practices in PPP" he lectures the lack of "objective evaluation, or any evaluation at all," to judge the success of any partnership.

Thus, the Philippines, with support from the secretary government, ADB and UNECE, will host the "International PPP Specialist Center for Health" to document the lessons learned from the country's venture into this field.

* * *

BEHIND a many story and it has nothing to do with Halloween.

It's also a story about how social status cannot protect a woman from harassment, even if she is the daughter of a congressional representative, and even if she is a government official.

Carissa Cruz Evangelista, a former undersecretary of the Department of Trade, has filed a complaint with the Bureau of Immigration regarding her brush with a brusque and flustered immigration officer at the airport last Saturday.

In the article, it is her affidavit completed submitted to the Bureau of Immigration, Evangelista, the daughter of Bataan Rep. Gina de Venecia, was called to the airport by security in the parking area of her Makati condominium because a neighbor was loudly complaining about the way her vehicle was parked.

When she reached the place, officers Evangelista, identified by her name tag, pushed her SUV over the dividing line of her parking slot. She quoted her neighbor, Muhammad Ali Sauzer al Shehri, a Saudi national, and appropriated his belongings for the instance since she had caused.

Instead of responding cordially, she recounts, Nasser began shouting and reading at her, at one point even threatening to slash her with Makati. Evangelista, in her account was running, two security guards tried to restrain him but he eluded getting at them for their "insolence." As the guards tried to find an alternative parking for him, he allegedly continued to shout at Evangelista, glaring at her all the while and declaring: "I am a man!"

In her affidavit, Evangelista averred that she noticed "bright, intense, excited anger in, and intention to hurt me, in the eyes of Mr. Ling, glimpse of gross threats against Nasser, which, I remember, I found to be feasible, are enough to have this Saudi national and harasser of women deported.

Fil-Ams go to the polls

NEWSSTAND

John Nery

IN 1935, just couple of weeks I've seen the question raised by several Filipino Americans on Twitter. The sexy TV reporter and anchor Lynda Jandilo-Bautista joined the panic last week (see both representations into other questions I read were also pleased with overblended hypothesis) and instinctive.

Why do most Filipinos in the United States, historically, vote republican? #votersmagazine

Like Lynda, those who have ventured with Filipino immigrants and Filipino Americans in the United States, I too share Lynda's assumption, although I would date the start of the historical period to the Reagan years. That is to say, this sense I share that mainly 90 that we know are as the years that Republican Party gave back early a generation.

Many Fil-Ams, but not all. That must be the first qualification; I know other Fil-Ams who are staunchly Democratic, one friend is even a labor organizer working with the Democrats.

Demographic statistics may be another filter. I good member of Fil-Ams I have visited with over the years have been markedly successful at their business or profession; a look at the Ben Research Center's 2012 Asian American Survey reveals that the 304 Fil-Ams interviewed had a median household income of $70,000 — the second highest among the six largest Asian subgroups, next only to the $88,000 reported for the Indian-Americans. (The four other subgroups are Asian-Americans of other Chinese, Japanese, Korean or Vietnamese descent.)

Religion may be another factor. Fil-Ams are classified in the survey as "majority philanthropy" Catholic, but 43 the Fil-Am population holds the religious composition of the mother country: Born adherents between three-months to four-fifths are Catholic. But while 82 percent say they are "satisfied with life" — the highest category the survey used), only 20 percent of Fil-Am say they are "satisfied with direction of country" — by far the lowest among the six subgroups. Perhaps a good case can be made that this finding mirrors the American Catholic hierarchy's cool and very public disaffection with the Obama administration, on such fundamental option issues as abortion, gay marriage, contraception.

Both some speculation, I would add another possible filter, which may help explain the finding in the original Twitter question: that of ethnicity.

The answer to the question may in the end depend on whether a particular Fil-Am voter sees himself as committed to the project of full-scientific history that would easily explain choosing a party that has — there should I say that? — has sympathy with Philippine history.

Here, for discussion's sake, is a shorter version of our complicated history with the American republic turned empire. It was a Republican administration which waged and declared war on the Philippine Republic in 1899; it was a Democratic administration, keeping to the promise of the Democratic administration it succeeded, who proclaimed our independence in 1946.

I know, I know. This capsule history is an overoversimplification (and even too much emphasis on the political contexts of independence). And yes it was a Republican president who rationalized the conquest of the Philippines, with a population of some 6 million Catholics, as an effort in Christianizing the world. It was another Republican who chose the last general of Filipino intellectual-statesmen, the eager opportunist Emilio Aguinaldo, to win the Philippine presidential election, who created the Senate, and another Democrat who inaugurated the Commonwealth (an experiment in guided democracy that allowed the appointment of our neighbors in other seas from the Dutch East Indies). It was a Republican president who gave federal the Philippine Autonomy Act; it was another Republican who stood by the Philippine Republic and allowed the vote end.

My point (perhaps a Fil-Am who votes Republican has not that history aside, is not given it. The history he is maintaining himself into is reasonably, definitely, independent.

Which is the point, I think, why the Fil-Ams break for the Republican candidate, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney?

The Pew survey's findings on "political and social attitudes" suggest that the answer is, at best, murky. They find 43 Fil-Am as more sympathetic to the Republican Party than the four other major subgroups — but "more" is relative.

"Compared with the general public, Asian Americans are more likely to support an active government and less likely to identify as Republicans. Half say Democrats or lean Democratic, while only 26 percent identify with or lean toward the GOP. Among all American adults, 49% fall in the Democratic camp and 39% identify with or lean toward the Republican Party. Indian Americans are the most heavily Democratic-leaning subgroup (63%), while Filipino Americans and Vietnamese Americans are the most evenly split between the two parties."

According to the survey, 46 percent of Fil-Am are Republican or lean Republican, while 43 percent are Democratic or lean Democratic. (The comparable numbers for Vietnamese-Americans: 53-34; Chinese-American: 34-59; Indian-American: 63-26.) If clearly support for Republicans in the Filipino among Indian Americans (who have at least two high-profile Republican governors), support for the Republican party is only 3 percent.

The survey's margin of error is plus or minus 2.4 percentage points. So if this race were could really split evenly. Or, like the 53 electorate as a whole, it could also lean, ever so slightly, for Barack Obama. How American.

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Boon or bane?

LIKE RECENT night, I woke up to the bright glow of the computer screen and the rhythmic tap-tap-tapping of someone at the keyboard, glancing at the glow-in-the-dark wall clock, I saw that it was already 2 a.m., way past the bedtime of my cousin, who should be up and about at 6 a.m. and getting ready for school. Wow! She must be really hardworking, to be burning the midnight oil during schooldays. Or maybe she's just addicted to online games every single, weekends and holidays included. But then, why is it that her parents are always telling her to get away from the computer because of her failing grades?

Telling a youth, I decided to get up and help her with her lessons. But, she turned down my offer with a curt: "I can manage. Go back to sleep." Imagine my surprise when, nestling a glance at the computer screen, I saw that she was actually tweeting and Facebook-ing! Scrolling my glance, my cousin, with amazingly quick reflexes, immediately pressed the Alt + Tab key code and pretended to be doing her homework instead. Huh. Huh. That explained everything.

Now comes the big question: Is social networking all bene-fitted in serious claim it to be, or is it actually harmful? It is a boon, or a bane?

Social networking can truly be a great tool in facilitating communication. It is useful in just about every facet of industry, from business to corporations marketing their products and announcing information about job openings, to friends and family members exchanging greetings and sounding sympathies. Lovers sites and friends separated by oceans are now simply a click away with real-time conversations made a whole lot cheaper and more convenient than ever before. All of a sudden, we find that we can easily keep abreast with the latest happenings around the globe, voice our opinions and suggestions, and see what our relatives and friends are doing by just logging on to Facebook, Twitter, or any other social networking site.

Social networking has really become our big arena for the sharing of virtually everything — school files, images, pictures, videos, comments. Indeed, the world is seen as extended as it has never been, as borders and boundaries reduced to nothingness. The Sherman brothers were right: it's a small world, after all.

And yet, coupled with the world of unparalleled possibilities are dangers and threats that prey on the naive and the unsuspecting. I should know, I've experienced those myself.

Months into social networking, I soon realized that what I say and post today — the seemingly insignificant comment, the trivial picture or video — can actually make or break me in the future. One of the dangers that lie in social networking is that once something is posted, be it a status or silly tease or a rude and vulgar comment, it can never be truly erased, for what one deletes can still exist in the web and in the memories of other people's computers years later. Many times I've found myself at the short end of the proverbial stick over the circulation of a picture I'd rather no one see months after I deleted it. I have learned the importance of thinking before I post, and censoring before I share.

But that was not all, for I soon realized that there is much of problem lurking in the shadows of social networking sites: identity theft. These thieves — criminals in their own way — swoop down on the naive, on those who simply befriend anyone and everyone who send them a "friend" request, set up fake profiles, and pose as someone they're not. Remember Nicole Web? Web it not. I remember being surprised and more than a little mortified upon learning that the person I've been chatting with for the past week was actually an impersonator using the same name and profile picture as my classmate.

Also, pornography can become more widespread than it already is with cybersex and child pornography — already illegal and harmful as they are — made even more accessible through the use of social networking sites. Blocking is no longer a feasible solution for parents, as most schools facilitate the dissemination of information, announcements and even assignments through social networking sites, and especially among the youth, has become even more difficult to curb, with parents having a harder time keeping track of what their children are viewing or who their children are chatting with.

There is just something about the anonymity of social networking that makes it so easy for unscrupulous people to target the naive and negative them in to actually meet them. Those people can easily pose as someone else and lure others into meeting with them in the real world, where the latter find themselves the unfortunate victims of theft, kidnapping, and even rape.

Then there are the dangers of cyberbullying and stalking. Many a reputation has been destroyed through a few carelessly placed comments and thoughtless pictures from Orkut to Multiply, Friendster, and shared on Facebook, for example. "Just for a no longer "just," after all, when someone's reputation is smeared.

But perhaps the most insidious of all the dangers that lurk in social networking sites are the ones that addict users to these sites, leading to their losing sight of what is truly important in life. Nowadays, even some office workers find themselves unable to resist the lure of Facebook or Twitter during office hours. Personal time in the company of family and friends is also now being traded in for Facebook, Twitter, or Plurk.

There's just something about social networking that causes people like my cousin to spend hours on end in front of the computer screen, chatting with friends until 2 in the morning, when the time could have been better spent studying for lessons, having dinner with her family, or simply sleeping in preparation for the next day's activities.

After all is said and done, the benefits and perils of social networking all boil down to proper usage. While social networking may allow even the tiniest of voices to be heard, it can also render humanity heedless and inhumane. The trick, then, lies in knowing how and when to reap the benefits the social networking sites offer, and steer clear of the traps it may hold beneath its surface.

Indeed, with social networking, it truly is a small world. But remember, just as the possibilities are endless, so, too, are the dangers. Be careful. Be safe.

Johanna Willow Go, 18, is a first year medical technology student at the University of Santo Tomas.

YOUNG BLOOD

Johanna Willow Go

We want to know what the young people in your world are doing online. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the *runnyoungblood* and below.—Ed.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contribution by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

No mention of population in Spence growth report

LETTERS

In 2040 means Talk of the Town article, "Overwhelming Case for the BIT Shortcut," 10/14/12), the authors stressed the research of Michael Spence as supportive of population management programs as ingredients for high and sustained economic growth.

In the interview of "Nakasoni Dress and Fashion View" which the reporter is known for, please be the help/child) that also, **The report of Michael Spence** is a short "The Growth Report: Strategies for Sustained Growth and Inclusive Development." The Interim and in modern can find this in the World Bank website.

The report summed the participation of 23 economies, namely, Botswana, Brazil, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Malta, Oman, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand. The report dealt with the question: What made these 13 economies achieve annual 7 percent growth for a period of 25 years? What were their ingredients for growth?

The report found that these countries have four "common factors," namely: (1) **their strategic integration with the world economy**; (2) the mobility of resources, particularly labor, (3) **the high savings and investment rate**, and (4) a capable government committed to growth. It also recommended other "ingredients" such as stimulating public investment, exchange rate policies, etc.

Interestingly, in no section of the report is there any invitation of population management research as an ingredient for growth. The article's negative(s) was not" cannot even be found, even if some of these 13 countries did engage in population management programs, the report did not even hesitate to indicate those programs as moving growth factors, the authors were aware of those programs in the countries they evaluated, but it calls attention that they chose not to openly advocate population management as a growth ingredient.

Rather, their specific recommendations for countries were of a different flavor for India, it recommends improving infrastructure investments and quality of education. For China, it recommends more consumption, for rapidly growing young populations in developing countries, it recommends human capacity.

—ALFREDO LAGAO
PhD student, UP Economics

BRONZE CROSS awardee Alfonso Avilés gets a kiss from his mother.

Avilés an inspiration for fellow cadets, Filipinos

I FEEL very happy for Philippine Military Academy cadet Alfonso Avilés and his family. I saw his picture in the newspaper—standing, stable and smiling. I followed his story because his act was a rare display of bravery for one so young, someone who dreams of becoming a soldier. I am a frustrated wannabe Philbo, having enrolled in a journalism course instead.

Cadet Avilés was given a much deserved Bronze Cross medal for "Distinguished conduct in the performance of duty, displaying conspicuous gallantry, determination, or other extraordinary courage and bravery by amongst, going to disarm the soldier, disregarding his personal safety, he refuses," or his citation read. The cadet has meaningful awards ceremony held at the V. Luna Medical Center was really moving. The parents shed tears of pride and joy.

Cadet Avilés is an inspiration not only to his fellow cadets and the youth but also to all Filipinos. Young as he is, two months ago he threw caution to the winds to help a fellow passenger who was being held up. He was shot in the scuffle but survived.

The PMA bid ring he lost, which means so much to all PMA cadets, was also replaced and it was as though he never lost it. This was a very warm gesture from PMA Superintendent Gen. Oscar Alfredo Peralta Jr. and the rest of the PMA.

It may take some time for him to completely recover physically and spiritually, but he is going there's "When it important to that he is on the way to recovery! And walking to satellite his life once again for others I want to.

—DESIDERIO L. ZELA JR.
Ilocandia Rd, Silliman, QC

Sin tax, even if 'reformed,' is just another regressive tax

DARIUSO LAGAO ng Alinao (PLAC) opposes the proposed sin tax reform bill not because it is another form of regressive tax imposed on consumers, similar to the value-added tax (VAT). While the government proposed the expanded VAT in 2006, the argument was that it was needed to offset the country's lamentable budget deficit. Since then, the 12-percent VAT has been imposed (repeatedly) on basic products, such as gas, electricity and water, which magnify the problems of highly poor, and burden the poor.

Early this year, when pandemic prices soared to astronomical levels, taxpayer and consumer groups demanded a reduction of the 12 percent VAT, but the government refused, saying that the tax rate was needed to service "social programs." Today the government wants to raise the sin tax to avoid potential annual P60 billion yearly which could be used to fund the government's "universal health programs."

The problem with this is that there is no such thing as a universal health program under the present administration. What we have is the PhilHealth insurance program which is limited by bureaucratic interference and selective effects on local health coverage, anti-indelible for patients. The universal health care remains as promised in welfare state enterprises in Europe, Cuba, Venezuela and Malaysia provide almost free health care, hospitalization and medicine for all citizens. This explains the term "universal" in health.

The Aquino administration is also implementing a pump primer, partnership scheme which will privately owned public hospitals in the country, including the Philippine General Hospital and the National Orthopedic Hospital. Hence, there is reason to suspect that **the government's move in imposing** sin taxes on cigarettes and alcohol products, particularly alcohol is not based on any economic or health program for the poor. The computation on the expected tax revenues alone proves that the additional tax is intended as coming consumption, but in keeping it at high levels since a revenue target.

While we agree that the consumption of sin products should be curtailed, we do not believe that this could be done by inflicting more burdens on the consumers. It can best be done by raising consumer taxes and acknowledging a massive information campaign against the evils of smoking and excessive drinking.

On this score, the government should investigate the habits of the farmers of Ilocandia Tobacco to ascertain the tax evasion taxes involving P1.1 million filed against tobacco and beer tagged Lucio Tan. A portion of this amount would be enough to fund the targeted 5 million poor Philhealth members without any need of them paying a single centavo.

Lastly, if the government is really serious on merely penalizing the users of cigarettes and alcohol, we will call on its member congressmen due to benefit or aid. Go ahead with the sin tax, but scrap the VAT first.

—JOHNNY DELIGERO, chairperson,
Partido Lakanyang Kusa (PLAC)
partidolakanyang@gmail.com

Opposition to framework pact only to be expected

DIDN BEFORE the euphoria over the just-concluded Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro could reach its peak, already there were haters wanting to strike it down. It was only to be expected, considering that looming major political change is such as a threat to some influential people and sectors.

In the past, proposals emerging from the negotiations were vehemently opposed by political figures, especially when the proposals involved Bangsamoro land. These days, however, the opposition is coming from within the Moro people. Over the most vocal among the leaders of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), Nur Misuari reportedly has followers in Davao City but evidently their number has decreased even as the campaign for his return has diminished. It is also obvious that like the combatants of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), Misuari's own people are tired of the conflict that has led them to nowhere. Even the hotheaded Commander Bravo, who attacked Cotabato to protest the initialing of the controversial Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain, has expressed satisfaction with the progress spelled out in the framework.

The forces of three have been effectively neutered. Given the fact that Nur is now physically debilitated, the hotter option for his forces is to return to the MILF mainstream. There are better possibilities for them and their families if they do so, considering the benefits the framework agreement offers the Bangsamoro.

We expect the document to end, and for the protagonists to bury their hatchets for good, leaderfolders and investors, who have seen the potentials of the region, expect the closing of al-Qaida, among them Ishmael Isamiyah and the Abu Sayyaf which are still embedded in some MILF camps, to be altogether neutralized. This will give more significance to their agreements. The dominant framers and the framework of private armies, or include civilian volunteer forces, will come later. The journey to success will go through a difficult road, but the objectives must be reached, for they are the successors to the reign of peace in Bangsamoro land and in the entire region of Mindanao.

—ATTY. BIENVENIDO MAYO,
Senator Ortigas,
Cotabato City

Ex-president's wheelchair-bound theatrics is the real joke

MALACAÑANG GOES no need to downplay or even apologize for the "wheelchair joke," thinking back about almost comparing with a former president's lack, a president who has actually survived a life-threatening accident is entitled to some light moments. There is no answer, that joke actually speaks much to protest and necessarily portrays how corrupt Filipinos are foolish-related antics to advance their interests.

Take Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, a former president who is on record as the one to shake the airwaves with POEA-sponsored TV commercials showing her helping out sick countrymen as if the POEA fields were her personal brigade. On the ground, OFWs are left to languish and suffer their image were widely shot-blasted in the newly public. Tagging it as humanitarian and playing to our decades, the sacrifice involved to ensure her political survival. So, it was almost inevitable that Arroyo herself would resort to wheelchair-bound theatrics to elicit our sympathy. Anyone here remember her attempt to pass off her "injuries" as "fall"? Still, there is indication that she could be using the groundwork for further use of her supposedly serious medical condition.

Actually, the joke here is we are being made to believe that after years of living in luxury, Arroyo is now so financially that she unless even their up to exist for her extravagances. The sickening thing is that the natural sympathy we feel toward actual persons with disabilities or health issues is being used as a shield against public accountability. That is not funny at all.

—RUEL BAYOT, PH.D.
ruelbayot@yahoo.com

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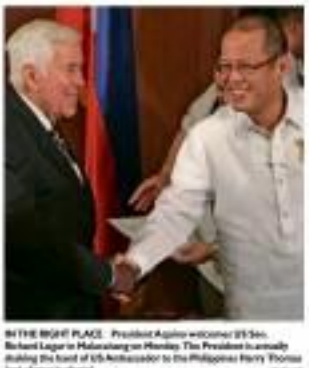

IN THE RIGHT PLACE. President Aquino welcomes US Sec. Richard Lugar in Malacañang on Monday. The President is actually shaking the hand of US Ambassador to the Philippines Harry Thomas (not shown in photo). AP/LEAH MILLIS

Confusion marks early reports on GMA

By Christine O. Avendaño

IT WAS neither a trick nor a treat.

For a moment yesterday, reporters thought former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo would be able to walk away from detention at Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City, courtesy of a supposed temporary restraining order (TRO) from the Supreme Court (SC).

This was after the court's information on first advised reporters that the high tribunal would issue and upload a "copy of the SC TRO on former GMA's arraignment before the Sandiganbayan on the PCSO/pleader case."

But when reporters finally got the copy, they asked the information office why the TRO was not addressed to Arroyo, now a Pampanga representative, but to someone else.

After a few hours, the office clarified through text and e-mail that the TRO was actually on the latest order of one of Arroyo's associates in the plunder case involving the alleged misuse of funds of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO).

"This is to clarify that the Oct. 24, 2012, TRO issued by the court's Third Division in GR Nos. 203903-04, Flaviano L. Sandigan-bayan, enjoins the implementation of the warrant of arrest against petitioner Milda Pineda as ordered in the assailed resolution of the Sandiganbayan dated Oct. 3, 2012, in Criminal Case no. SB-12-CRM-0174," said Maria Victoria Ebesmeyer, Sp. Trustee, the court spokesperson.

What the high court division meant was that it was stopping the arrest order by the Sandiganbayan on Pineda, former Commission on Audit undersecretary and supervising auditor of the PCSO, and asking prosecutors to comment within 10 days. Pineda said that she had been a victim of "grave abuse of discretion."

While Arroyo's camp had petitioned the high court on Oct. 24 for the issuance of a TRO almost similar appeal to that of Pineda, the Pampanga representative has to wait until the Sandiganbayan issues from its Monday All Saints' Day break, or until Nov. 5.

The erroneous report of the court's early information, which it later backtracked, elicited a joyous reaction from Arroyo's lawyers, a fleeting sound bite.

Said Presidential Topacio in a statement: "It is a reaffirmation of our constant stand that the grave accusations against the former President should not be viewed in the confusion of the disinformation being conducted in Malacañang, based on rules told by idiots, full of sound and fury but signifying nothing, to paraphrase Shakespeare."

GMA refuses to enter plea to plunder

From page A1

enter a plea on the charge involving the alleged misuse of P366 million in Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) funds, saying she did not recognize the authority of the Sandiganbayan to try her.

This prompted the Sandiganbayan to put in a "not guilty" plea for her.

Wearing a pink shawl over a light pink dress and a cutch purse, the 65-year-old Arroyo appeared in court for 7:28 a.m. in a subdued hair, smiling for photographers.

The former President, who had two spinal operations two years ago, sat silently beside her family and lawyer while charges were read in the court.

The whole proceedings in the court's first division lasted 15 minutes.

She could face a maximum sentence of life in prison if she is sent to trial and found guilty.

"We do not recognize the court's jurisdiction over this case," said Raul Lambino, Arroyo's counsel, later told reporters. Its lawyers called the case as "political persecution."

"She is not over this case," he said, adding that Arroyo has a petition in the Supreme Court questioning the validity of the case and the court's jurisdiction to hear it.

Prosecutors accuse Arroyo and nine officials of the PCSO of transferring around P366 million of the state lottery money to an intelligence fund for personal gain.

Lara Arroyo, the Ombudsman threw out another plunder charge against her, saying there was not enough evidence to sustain the charge. Ombudsman prosecutors (PCSO will focus in the country's business process concerning order.

Peso, interest rates

"Taken together, these unexpected hurt consolidation in the appreciation of the peso and lower interest rate seen for the government. These have in turn helped accelerate the process of debt consolidation, thus affirming the relatively high stock of debt as a countries on this," Moody's said.

The national government's debt stock...the proportion of to outstanding debts to the country's gross domestic product—four billion over the years to just about 50 percent from a high of over 90 percent to the middle of the last decade.

The rise of the peso and the decline in interest rates, both of which are credited for improved investor sentiment, helped ensure the decline in the government's debt stock over the years, according to finance officials.

Efforts to improve revenue collection and measures to discourage tax evasion were also seen as factors in the government's fiscal condition, the officials added.

Peace deal

Moody's also said that the latest peace agreement between the government and Moro Islamic Liberation Front may have added beneficial effects on investment and economic growth in Mindanao... which has untapped agricultural and mining potential," Moody's said.

"The upgrade in credit rating may further bolstering the 10-month jump in ratings—from Non to finish one of 161 countries...by the Philippines in the global competitiveness report that the World Economic Forum released last month. (Rich a report from Reuters)

FAMILY SUPPORT. In this photo released by the Philippine National Police, former President Macapagal-Arroyo (right), who is currently under hospital arrest, stands with members of her family during her arraignment at the Sandiganbayan in Quezon City on Monday. Arroyo, who is charged with plunder for allegedly misusing state lottery funds, refused to enter a plea, prompting the anti-graft court to enter a not guilty plea on her behalf. From left are her sons Representative Juan Miguel Arroyo and Dato Arroyo, daughter Luli Arroyo-Baricuatro and husband Jose Miguel Arroyo.

roy, Camarines Sur Rep. Dinadiado Arroyo and Luli Arroyo-Baricuatro.

After the plunder information was read, Arroyo's chief counsel, Anselmo Diaz, said the court his client was not entering any plea because she had a pending petition in the Supreme Court for contempt challenging the plunder findings of the Office of the Ombudsman against her.

After entering a plea of not guilty for Arroyo, the court set a preliminary conference on Dec. 3, and the pretrial hearing next Feb. 14.

Abuse of discretion

Lambino insisted that there was an abuse of discretion by the Ombudsman in filing the plunder information against Arroyo. He said there had been an earlier finding by a five-member investigative panel that found no probable cause to file the same charge.

The findings, however, were reversed by the Ombudsman, he said.

Lambino also said that had Arroyo entered a not guilty plea, it would mean she recognized the jurisdiction of the Sandiganbayan and the Ombudsman over the case.

Former PCSO Director Manuel Morato, one of Arroyo's coaccused, was not able to attend his arraignment because he was still recuperating from a heart surgery at St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City. His arraignment was reset on Nov. 23.

Earlier arraigned in the case were former PCSO Chair Sergio Valencia and former PCSO official Jocelyn Bolante. Bolante, known as Arroyo, who both pleaded not guilty. The two are currently detained in Camp Crame.

Six more accused have yet to be arraigned. They are former PCSO General Manager Rosario Uriarte, former Director Raymundo Roquero, Jose Taroc V and Ma. Serena Valdez, former Commission on Audit (COA) Chair Reynaldo Villar, and COA Region Vincad Nilda Plana.

Palace welcomes proceedings

Plana has entered a temporary restraining order from the Supreme court pending a hearing on her claim that the Sandiganbayan and the prosecutor had committed grave abuse of discretion (See story on this page).

Arroyo, who has gone into hiding, also has petitioned in the Supreme Court for a preventive arrest.

The prosecution has asked the court to order the Department of Foreign Affairs to cancel the passports of Uriarte, Taroc and Valdez after the Bureau of Immigration confirmed their departure from the country shortly before the issuance of warrants of arrest against them.

Presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said the government was satisfied with the case against Arroyo.

"Under criminal procedure, if an accused refuses to enter a plea, it is considered as a not guilty plea. So at the very least, the former President has already been arraigned and the court has acquired jurisdiction over the person," Lacierda said.

"The case can finally move forward."

With reports from Jaime Laude, Gil C. Cabacungan, Christine O. Avendaño, in Manila, Reuters and Xinhua/ P. Borgen Jr., Inquirer Visayas

Philippines gets credit upgrade from Moody's

From page B1

pension over the medium term.

"Despite the broad tweak from softening external demand, the Philippine has demonstrated considerable economic strength and fiscal resilience," Moody's said in a statement.

Good governance

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said the upgrade to the credit rating by Moody's was proof that "good governance is good economics."

Purisima noted that Moody's decision was the ninth positive action that the Philippines got from various credit rating agencies since President Aquino took office in 2010.

"This is another affirmation of the economic agenda of President Aquino. I think governance is indeed good economics. This is the ninth positive ratings action since the President took office and has brought us on the cusp of investment grade rating," Purisima said.

Tetangco delighted

Bgo. Amando Tetangco Jr. of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said Moody's favorable decision would fuel hopes that an investment rating may come "sooner rather than later."

"We are delighted with Moody's recognition of the Philippines' strengthened macroeconomic fundamentals and growth prospects," Tetangco told reporters.

He said the country's banking system became strong with the implementation of tough regulatory reforms over the years.

"Investment grade is certainly within sight," said Tetangco (or, on economists at DBS Bank in Singapore.

"This does not come as a surprise given the structural improvement in GDP [gross domestic product] growth and debt management dynamics over the last few years," he added.

He said a broadening of the investor base, as well as information on dividend and expenses, would probably be needed before the major rating agencies upgraded Philippine debt again.

Stable outlook

Moody's said the latest credit rating of the Philippines, which applies to debts denominated in local and foreign currencies, was assigned a "stable" outlook.

Such an outlook indicates that a credit rating is likely to remain the same within the short term unless unexpected developments dampen existing favorable economic trends.

In the first half of the year, the Philippine economy grew by 6.1 percent from a year ago, one of the fastest growth rates in the region.

The encouraging growth rate of the Philippines came even as the euro zone suffers a recession and as the United States have slow growth and high unemployment levels.

"In addition, cyclical features support improved prospects for growth in the medium term," Moody's said.

Infrastructure, remittance

The agency said the factors supporting the country's growth in the next few years included rising government spending on infrastructure and the still strong remittances from overseas Filipino workers.

Because of remittances, consumption by Filipino households or expected to remain robust.

The fact that banks in the country are profitable and strong indicate that they are capable of providing credit support to businesses and to the government, according to Moody's.

$83-B forex reserve

Rising foreign exchange reserves, now at a historic high of about $83 billion, was also cited by the country's improved credit rating.

With the reserves, higher than the combined foreign debts of private firms and government entities, the Philippines can pay debts in foreign creditors in the coming due.

The reserves are boosted mainly by remittances, foreign portfolio investments and inflows in the country's business process outsourcing sector.

Peso, interest rates

"Taken together, these unexpected hurt consolidation in the appreciation of the peso and lower interest rate seen for the government. These have in turn helped accelerate the process of debt consolidation, thus affirming the relatively high stock of debt as a countries on this," Moody's said.

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Bilib I.T. or not: Prison call center eyed

From page A1

technology (IT) schools steps to qualified inmates so they can have productive skills that will help them get back on their feet.

Bilib I.T. is the new key learning call centers inside jail facilities to help fellow inmates after their training and gain employment," Cayetano said in a statement released during the program launch at Taguig City Jail.

"I eventually want to get them because it's a step further toward further rehabilitation," he added.

Among the courses to be offered are Basic IT, Adobe Photoshop, computer hardware servicing and a finishing course for call center agents, which would include English proficiency and soft skills.

Among the inmates who were given scholarships during the launch were Alvin Mikon, 21; Noreen Delantin, 20; Belinda Pagalaran, 48, and Jenny Cantao, 29.

Cayetano said the scholarships will be granted to at least 200 inmates, and to expect public disdain with the help of the Technical and Education Skills Development Authority (Tesda).

Cayetano cited a similar program in the United States where "inmates do call center work for nonviolent crimes."

Who are eligible for the program?

"Those who have served their sentence but prefer to live inside the penal community due to lack of skills necessary to rejoin the work force, detainees who have minimum security and those inmates with sentences not longer than six years," Cayetano said.

"We should give them a chance to make a living and become productive members of society in the future," he added.

Tesda Director General Joel Villanueva, who was present during the launch, added that more than providing livelihood for the inmates after serving their sentences, it was also about restoring the dignity accumulated with being an ex-convict.

The inmates will look better in prospective employers if they have done work in the detention facility, he added.

Cayetano expressed willingness to work with the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) and the Department of Justice to create guidelines that will allow inmates to be in a job that would enable them to be in direct commercial contact with the public.

The program was launched in cooperation with Tesda, IT school Informatics, BJMP and Taguig Mayor Lani Cayetano.

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- 2006 Local Government Leadership Awards OUTSTANDING MAYOR OF THE PHILIPPINES conferred by the Senate of the Philippines, LGA, DAP & DILG
- 2005 MOST OUTSTANDING MAYOR conferred by PNP, BFP & BJMP
- 2005 "APOLINARIO MABINI AWARDEE" conferred by the Philippine Foundation for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled, Inc.
- Regional Representative, League of Cities of the Philippines
- Regional Peace and Order Council Chairman, Region 1

Pinoy ti Amin'ga! Pinoy ti Apo'ng-apo!

Geeta seeks Vazquez's title in Pacman undercard

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Dichoso

SPORTS

NLEX five tests prized D-League recruits today

By Jeannine W. Pupa

Go gets SC backing on POC bid

By Jose Navarro

Aces unleash 'The Beast'

By Cedell P. Tupas

CALVIN Abueva challenges the defense of Ginebra's Willie Wilson.

Nomads, Stallions overwhelm UFL Cup foes

By Cedell P. Tupas

Baby Tams' Jr MVP Pingoy to Blue Eagles

By Jeannine W. Pupa

Goodbye, Pareng Maui, cycling legend

BARE EYE

Recoh Trinidad

Asian Duathlon attracts top bets from 19 nations

Ateneo de Davao, HCC rule SBP-Passerelle leg

JUBILANT members of the Ateneo de Davao University SBP team savor their victory with head coach Nonie Ashan.

Roaring for 3 years in a row!

Congratulations to San Beda Red Lions for winning their unprecedented 17th NCAA basketball trophy. They've truly shown that they have a heart of a lion!

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- Manny V. Pangilinan

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Giants sweep World Series

DETROIT—The San Francisco Giants capped a wild post-season ride by beating the Detroit Tigers 4-3 in 10 innings on Sunday to complete a four-game sweep and be crowned World Series champions for the second time in three years.

Matt Scutaro, the most valuable player in the National League Championship Series, was again the hero for the Giants, cracking a sharply hit single into shallow center to bring in Ryan Theriot with the winning run.

Having survived six do-or-die elimination games in the National League Division and Championship Series, the Giants stayed one the season in ruthless style swiping off seven consecutive wins.

"What made them so special was they were such an unselfish group, they just loved each other and played for each other and the fans and had a never say die attitude," Giants manager Bruce Bochy said.

"It's amazing what a group of guys who play like a team can accomplish."

Brandon Belt opened the scoring with an HR trigger to the second and Buster Posey added a two-run homer in the sixth while reliever Santiago Casilla took credit for the win.

After back-to-back shutouts and 20 scoreless innings, Detroit's batters finally awoke from their slumber with Triple Crown winner Miguel Cabrera and Delmon Young both hitting homers but it was too little too late.

So-so ace has ever erased a 1-0 deficit to win a World Series and the Tigers dug the hole a little deeper when they fell behind 1-0 in the second inning.

Buster Posey doubled to the wall in deep center for Giants first hit then scored home when Belt drilled a triple into the right field corner to silence the chilled millions watching.

But Tigers fans were back on their feet cheering wildly in third when Cabrera took a 1-1 offering from Giants ace Matt Cain and crushed a towering two-run homer into the right field bleachers to give Detroit their first lead of the series.

Posey answered with a two-run blast in sixth that slipped just inside the left field foul pole into the fireworks zone.

Jose Valverde relieved Jeremy Affeldt delivered the threat striking out Cabrera, Fielder and Young.

Some 41,000 Giants fans also watched the game on a Jumbotron as giant screen at a park across from City Hall. They grew in numbers and volume throughout the chilly and foggy night.

Reuters, AP

SERGIO Romo (No. 54) celebrates with the rest of the San Francisco Giants after striking out Miguel Cabrera of the Detroit Tigers in the 10th inning as they sweep the Major League Baseball World Series in Detroit.

Injury foils Japeth's tryout with Iowa Energy

AGUILAR

By Jane Manarro

A HAMSTRING injury forced Japeth Aguilar to postpone his scheduled workout with NBA Development League team Energy over the weekend.

The former Yuh Ye Yeon 6-foot-8 forward pulled his left hamstring in a three-on-one drill, forcing his Filipino-American agent Chris McGarry to cancel his participation in the tryout held in Chicago, according to the team Journal, a US-based Filipino community daily.

But McGarry said the injury won't be a hindrance when the 25-year-old Aguilar pursues his dream of becoming the first Filipino to be picked in the NBA D-League Draft on Nov. 2.

"It happened a few days before the workout with Iowa. It's nothing serious. It's just a matter of one muscle to weak and the other to strong so it's nothing to worry about," McGarry told the Asian Journal.

"The good news is, though he wasn't able to play to the tryout, he did meet with the coaches and staff," McGarry added.

Carlos, Castilo, Gadi roll into PBaRS semifinals

No. 4 Danna Bolin, who mauled Del Castillo in the event sponsored by MVP Sports Foundation.

IBANGA Carlos and Ortiza Castilo handled their respective quarterfinal rivals to advance in the women's Open singles while five-time champion Toby Gadi barged into the men's semifinals of the MVP Sports Foundation-Philippine Badminton Rankings System (PBaRS) at Makati Coliseum yesterday.

Carlos, seeking a repeat of her straight-set victory over the top seed Castilo in the finals of the PBaRS Cebu leg last May, handled no. Katherine Mayoon, 21-14, 21-8. She set up a semis duel with Anabel Santiago of MWSUBA, who upset third seed Simora Legaspi, 21-8, 18-21, 21-19.

Castilo, a mainstay of Golden Shuttle Foundation like Carlos, sweated a walkover win over Cassandra Lim to arrange a semifinal showdown with second seed, posted his third straight victory, a 21-6, 21-18 win over No. 13 Christopher Flores.

Gadi, who drew a first round bye and scored a walkover win in the

IBANGA Carlos is casting both the Open and Under-19 crowns in the PBaRS tournament which aims to discover talents and provide players a series of training tournaments for spots in the national pool.

THE Lyceum-Batangas Lady Pirates, with coach Jayvee Gayoso, possess their trophy in Dr. Fe Medina, Lyceum-Batangas vice president for institutional affairs.

Lady Pirates rule NC-South

CYCLONE Philippines University-Batangas romped back a gritty San Beda College-Alabang, 69-56, to complete a race game sweep of the women's basketball finals for the 11th NCAA South title over the weekend at Lyceum-Batangas City.

The Lady Pirates closed the game with a 10-0 run to take the fight out of the Red Lionesses as they followed up their tough 62-60 victory in Game 1.

Robyn Dalida topscored with 19 points while Jelly Bacaltos and rookie Angelou Manalo contributed 10 points each in helping Lyceum to its fourth title in five years.

Thirsty in defensive muscle, Lyceum actually held San Beda scoreless in the last five minutes, after the Lady Pirates saw their margin dwindle to 58-56 after an 8-0 run anchored by Jessa Mae Flores and Irene Ann Bermas.

Still, the Red Lionesses bounced from their third-place finish last year.

"While the majority of our veterans gone due to graduation, our goal was to place second or winning this championship was a surprise," said UPLB sports director and coach Jayvee Gayoso of his corps of mostly sophomores.

In boys basketball, Perpetual Help-Calamba rallied past De La Salle-Zobel, 60-57, to have a winner-take-all duel.

Perpetual also moved on the cusp of remaining in men's volleyball crown with a 25-20, 25-21, 23-25, 25-12 walloping of Lyceum in Game 1 of their series.

Cedelf F. Topacio

Red Cubs, Staglets hurdle UAAP rivals

NCAA powerhouse San Beda reshaped past National Chat newly crowned UAAP riddle For Knowers 3 Offense: one motivated by San Sebastian College in the second day of the La Philippine Interscholastic Schools Basketball Championship (PSSBC) Sunday at Olivarez College Gym.

Getting big games from NCAA Finals MVP Jaypee Belencion and PBA 1-10 standout Arvie Valentino and Alejandro Bilgo, the Red Cubs, 20-time NCAA titlists, bore the SLU Bulldogs, 77-66, to remain unbeaten in Group B.

Bilgo topscored with 17 points, including seven in the pupoli period, while Valentino, home in from Beda's 95-91 win over Hope Christian High School in the opener, let last Saturday added 14.

The day, however, belonged to the Staglets, who stunned the big by Tamaraws, 86-58, to stay unscathed in Group A.

FEU coach Raymund Villanueva said the weakened effort of Alfrin Gayosa, Michael Calimag, Jon Macaraeg and Orjack Salazar Jr. compromised his their only one week of preparation for the event.

Villanueva drew 18 points from Gayosa and a combined 16 points from Velasco and Macaraeg.

Villanueva was also pleased with the return of Macaraeg, who missed Game Sebastian's NCAA Finals loss to San Beda due to double-pen pen.

In other games, Xavier became the first team from Metro Manila Temg Liao Basketball Association (MBTLBA) to barge into the semifinals by dismissing Ateneo, 67-61. Ateneo got a late bucket from Lemuel Lerma, 60-58, in another thriller.

San Beda, UST and San Sebastian then moved closer toward quarterfinal berths in the event sponsored by Petrogaz, Wilcon House Paints, Ironrex Builders, Aurelio Manila Locations, Dekker Underwear, MEC Networks, Blackwater Sports and Hagen Sportswear.

FEU star Arvie Pingoy was held to just eight points, a far cry from his 23-point performance in their opening-day win over Chiang Kai Shek College.

The PBTLBA/SSC game will be aired on Basketball TV (Channel 34) tomorrow at 11 p.m. through the sportscasting of Dardee Baron and Ron Chen Chatbox.

The top four squads after the elimination of the 10-team league will advance to the quarterfinals.

FFG Archers 6-stag derby gets going at Pasay today

THE SERIES of big-time tangilans as Pasay City Cockpit returns today via the "FFG Archers 6-Stag Derby" featuring more than 100 fights.

Backed up by Sagipuan Hamonero, the derby will be featured by 20 Tabiolanos of Rizal and the FFG Archers group.

The champions will receive a guaranteed prize of at least P1.5-million.

Last Friday's "Father Pedro Big Event 6-Stag Derby" produced six champions. Melvin Sangga, Ed Miranda, Vice Gov. Henry Dandoval, Nestor Lazaraga, Jimmy Reyes and Gavino Ildefonso.

PCC will also stage the following: eliminations of "FFG Sigmans Ambassas 9-Stag Derby" on Nov. 3; "Manny 4-Stag Derby" on Nov. 4 and "PGMEA 5-Stag Open Derby" on Nov. 12.

Preparations are also under way for the "Chairman Eggoon Big Event 6-Stag Derby" on Dec. 14. For inquiries, call 8421898, 8421796 and 09165758 (Cheche or Jessie L.

Rivera brothers snare top karting crowns

BROTHERS Mike and Kayshane Rivera completed their threepeat with history by clinching the top prizes in the Rotax class of the 2012 Team-Dole KF2-KF3 Cup Series at Clark International Speedway held recently in Angeles City.

The 16-year-old Mike bagged the KF2 crown while the younger Kayshane captured the KF3 title.

The Rivera brothers, both students of Don Bosco Makati, emerged the first siblings in Philippine karting history to claim the top awards of a single series. Not even the multititled JR and Mike Tanner during the '90s and

Mike (left) and Kayshane Rivera: Record-breaking feats

Mikkel Racing's Philbek and Mark Bumgarner of the last domain were able to achieve the feat.

Mike, already a had the KF3 plum in the bag after ruling Race 7, just 0.007 of a second ahead of SJ Ocho. Matthew Chan took third place.

Mike wrapped up the series with a total of 242 points, putting him in strong contention for Master of the Year honors.

Kayshane topped Races 7 and 8 to emerge KF3 champion with a total of 203 points, virtually securing him of the Junior Master of the Year award. Steve Silva, Coach Buster

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ALAWAN EXPRESS
PEPA PADALA
MURA, MABILIS,
MALIWANG SUSKISO—BALIKBAYAN

Burglars break into DBP Munti branch, empty vault

By Nikko Dizon

THE HEAD of the National Capital Regional Police Office (NCRPO) has ordered an investigation into a burglary which took place over the weekend at the Muntinlupa branch of the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) to determine whether or not it was an inside job.

According to reports, the robbers broke into the government bank on the National Highway by tearing off the steel grills of a window in a toilet.

Once inside, they covered the closed-circuit television cameras inside the establishment and removed the discs on which the footage taken by the CCTVs were stored, according to Muntinlupa police officer in charge Senior Insp. Conrad Capa.

Later on, they emptied the bank vault after using a hole measuring one foot in diameter using acetylene torches. Bank officials, however, have yet to determine the amount of money stolen.

Finally, the burglars cut off the wires connected to the bank alarm so that they could slip out of the premises undetected by the two security guards on duty.

Authorities believe the theft may have happened between Oct. 26, which was a holiday, and before 8 a.m. yesterday, the time it was discovered.

Security plan

"This is a breach with an elaborate security plan. Those who did this could be well informed. But the question is, how do you get well informed?" NCRPO director Chief Supt. Leonardo Espina said.

He added that it was highly suspicious that the drivers knew the following facts: How many CCTV discs were within the bank's premises, where these were positioned and where the security alarm could be found.

"This should be investigated by SOCO (Senior of the Crime Operations)," Espina said.

In a report submitted to Espina yesterday afternoon, Capa said all the clues they had gathered pointed to the possibility of the burglary being an inside job.

According to him, it seemed that the opening of the steel window grills was done by someone inside the toilet, not by a person who was simultaneously outside the bank.

"The marks made by the cutter can only be done from the inside," he explained in an interview.

Capa added that the thieves even managed to grab a bite during the heist as shown by the traces of leftover food found inside the bank.

"Clearly, this was an inside job," he said. "The officials of the DBP-Munti branch on duty at the time of the burglary and the bank accountant have been taken by the police for technical evaluation."

Metro cops seize 693 illegal guns

MORE THAN the start of the year, policemen in Metro Manila have seized nearly 700 undeclared firearms, a haul considerably higher compared to last year's.

"These are the main instruments in many crimes. We seize them and you reduce the crime rates eventually," Chief Supt. Leonardo Espina, National Capital Regional Police Office director, said in an interview yesterday.

According to him, the NCRPO has confiscated 693 short- and long-illegal firearms since January this year—the 394 it seized in 2011.

The confiscated firearms—most of which were seized at police checkpoints, were shown to media during the celebration of the NCRPO 11th founding anniversary which also honored exemplary police officers and units.

Espina said the haul was a result of the intensified police operations being implemented by his office through a number of its programs, including the Police Integrated Patrol System (PIPS).

It refers to the conduct of saturation drives, checkpoints, implementation of search and seizure warrants and mobile and foot patrols.

Nikko Dizon

ALASKA

NutriBuild 3 4 5 believes in raising "Isip Winner, Kilos Winner" children.

Time and time again, we have witnessed Filipinos break barriers - from arts to sports, even in public service, proving that we have what it takes to excel, to be winners. That excellence is marked by development. The earlier we invest in and harness that development, the more we can achieve our dreams and build a nation of winners.

"To I always tell my co-volunteers ... you are the change that you dream, as I am the change that I dream. and collectively we are the change that this world needs to be."

For 40 years, Alaska has prided itself on its mission to be the leading provider of affordable nutrition, embodying on a long-term program of bringing out Alaska milk products into each Filipino home at each stage of their lives. It has faith that Filipinos have what it takes to excel, and for the nation of winners we aspire to become with the help of its newest product, Alaska NutriBuild 345.

Nutritional scientists for growing up children are nothing new, but how to address this notion all the difference. To better understand the nutritional needs of our future winners, Alaska has sought the assistance of Tiffany Anne Sanvicente, a Registered Nutritionist-Dietician and Faculty member of De La Salle – College of Saint Benilde that conducts lectures on Nutrition and Wellness. According to Tiffany, the stage from 3 to 5 years is a period of slow growth but robust learning and acquisition of skills is at a fast pace. It is a stage where play becomes one of the most important activities, and where the child becomes picky with food less needs nutritional studies to fully support their developmental needs.

Alaska NutriBuild 345 was developed specifically to address these needs.

Alaska NutriBuild 345 is a Nutrient-Rich Milk with an integrated approach to health. Enriched with Essential Fatty Acids, Minerals, DHA/Arachidonic Acid, Zinc, Iodine, Choline/Taurine, and DHA/ARA, it features the right mix of brain and body facilities that help you raise a child who is physically adaptive and mentally alert.

Tiffany Anne Sanvicente – who has also conducted seminars centered on Nutrition for Kids, also stressed that providing the right mix of brain and body nutrients for the specific needs of your 3 to 5 year-old constitutes a holistic and integrated approach to child development. This is an essential aid in raising an individual who can excel and become a winner.

Alaska is a firm believer that only a healthy body can best possess a healthy mind, thus prompting Alaska NutriBuild 345's "Isip Winner, Kilos Winner." It is not only the belief that one has it in himself to be a winner, but a way of life where both mind and body are nourished and cared for. As the mind believes, the body responds.

Apart from the invitation of a sound mind and body, "Isip Winner, Kilos Winner" is a call to think and act right, a standard by which we judge our thoughts and actions. It is when a physically-strained athlete is able to outwardly push his body forward. It is when a person with disability refuses to succumb to physical limitations. It is when circumstances are stacked against you, but you strive to overcome them. Alaska has found a kindred spirit in Efren Peñaflorida, the personification of "Isip Winner, Kilos Winner."

Growing up on the slums, Efren Peñaflorida has seen the ills surroundings and his family's dire financial straits hinder him from getting an education. He was able to finish elementary and high school with the help of scholarships and financial assistance, and eventually graduated with a degree in Computer Technology. An advocate of learning, he pursued another course graduating cum laude and earning a degree in Secondary Education.

His passion for learning prompted him to start a youth group at 16 – Dynamic Teen Company, which kept young people from gang presence and had them in community development instead. The same group later on pioneered the Kariton Klasroom. Loaded with books, pens, tables and chairs, the idea behind the pushcart classroom is to bring education to the poor children and keep them away from gang life. This dedicated act of community service earned Peñaflorida global admiration and garnered him the 2009 CNN Hero of the Year award.

His acceptance speech during that it all, "As I always tell to my co-volunteers ... you are the change that you dream, as I am the change that I dream, and collectively we are the change that this world needs to be."

Alaska chose Efren Peñaflorida as their brand ambassador for he embodies a true "Isip Winner, Kilos Winner" individual. His journey is an inspiration and one that Alaska would want the Filipino youth today to emulate. To this end, Alaska has even gone so far as to actively support Efren's projects, which have now become shared advocacies.

Raising a child that is "Isip Winner, Kilos Winner" is all about giving him all the support we can give, which can start with as simple as giving him the right kind of milk like Alaska NutriBuild 345. It is never too early to invest in development. Let us help raise a generation of winners. Give your child a head start with Alaska NutriBuild 345. For a limited time, "Isip Winner, Kilos Winner"

Manila, Makati close streets near cemeteries on Nov. 1, 2

By Nikko Calleja and Erika Sauler

THE MAKATI City government yesterday announced the suspension of the number coding scheme on Nov. 1 and 2 and the implementation of a traffic rerouting plan in seven major roadways.

In a statement, Makati Department of Public Safety (DPS) director Hermenegildo Tan Miguel said the coding scheme is aimed at making it easy and convenient for people going to Manila South Cemetery, Makati Public Cemetery and Makati Catholic Cemetery.

According to Tan Miguel, the following streets will be closed to vehicular traffic: Kalayaan Avenue—from Zapote Street to P. Tuazon Street; South Avenue—from McArthur, to JP Rizal; Vito Cruz—from Gate's Avenue to Zapote Street; N. Garcia (formerly Bayani) Street—from Jupiter to JP Rizal; and Pililla Street—from JP Rizal to Kalayaan Avenue.

On the other hand, the following streets will be open to two-way traffic: JP Rizal—from Pantay Road in Makati Avenue; Kalayaan Avenue—from P. Tuazon Street in Makati Avenue and from Guijo Street to Zapote Street.

Tan Miguel also said that the traffic rerouting would be in effect until midnight of Nov. 2.

He advised motorists that the number coding scheme would be lifted in Makati from Nov. 1 to 2.

Meanwhile, ambulances and medical teams from Makati Rescue and the Makati Health Department will be deployed to provide medical assistance and emergency first aid treatment to concerned citizens.

In addition, public safety motorcycles and the Makati police will be deployed to assist in traffic management and ensure the peaceful observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day.

Earlier, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority also announced the lifting of the number coding scheme on those two days.

In Manila, the city government said it would be likewise implementing a traffic rerouting plan from Oct. 31 to Nov. 1.

Based on the Manila Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council's "Oplan Kaluluwa 2012" scheme, contingency measures and the implementation of policemen have been mapped out for Manila North Cemetery, Manila South Cemetery, La Loma Catholic Cemetery and Chinese Cemetery.

Between 6 a.m. on Dec. 31 and Nov. 3, roads around the Manila North, La Loma and Chinese cemeteries will be closed to traffic—portions of Aurora Boulevard from Dimasalang to Nagtahan Bridge, Rizal Avenue, Blumentritt from A. Bonifacio to P. Guevarra, Bustos from Dimasalang to Tabora and Lealtad from Curtis to Pampanga Streets and Leandro Rivera from Curtis to Aurora Boulevard.

Passenger jeepneys coming from Rizal Avenue/Recto can be diverted to Curtis and then to Lealtad, Leandro Rivera, Pampanga Streets and then right on Antipolo Street toward their destination. Jeepneys coming from Sampaloc Street, on the other hand, should turn right on Curtis, right on Bonifacio while those from Dimasalang should turn right on Mabolo and right on Marcela.

For commuters going to La Loma and Chinese cemeteries, vehicles coming from Espeña are advised to take Alfredo Lerma, Tayuman and Blumentritt.

Also, all cars coming from Quiapo, Sta. Cruz, Tondo and Caloocan should take San Abad Santos Street or Rizal Avenue Extension.

Last week, Manila Police District director Senior Chief Supt. Alejandro Gutierrez announced that 2,000 police officers and 2,700 civilian volunteers would be deployed to bus terminals or areas near cemeteries.

Police officials mentioned in statements that authorities are already checking the bags of visitors for sharp objects and other banned items like gas and liquor," he said.

Why should rookies be college grads?

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

WHY DOES a Police Officer 1 (PO1), the lowest rank in the police hierarchy, have to be a college graduate when all he needs to do is patrol the streets?

It doesn't require much brains to do that.

A high school graduate or one who had several units of course cards in college can make a capable policeman or policewoman if he undergoes the rigorous training of the lowest ranked cops 1.

However, policemen with officer rank—from inspector to Director General—should be college graduates.

* * *

But know why rookies don't want to patrol the streets?

They find it demeaning because they're college graduates.

That's why you see them **sleeping on the job or loafing** around at the precincts because they think that the streets should only be for street sweepers or traffic aides.

In the Philippine National Police (PNP) should change its policy of accepting only college grads because most of them tend to be high-brow **[illegible] shoulder.**

Most have **[illegible]** to be superdivisions since they can't find other jobs as civilians.

* * *

[illegible] police recruits show signs of intelligence in the early

One sign of intelligence is **[illegible]** up the premises of their campsite.

I **[illegible]** that right inside Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan, Taguig City **[illegible]** of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), plastic bottles and discarded food wrappers litter the premises of the trainees.

After the trainees use the restrooms of the firing range, they don't flush the toilet. They just throw objects into the bowl that cause clogging.

Don't these guys have toilets in their homes?

* * *

When Director Bartolome relieves on March and you the next chief PNP chief should be an **[illegible]** at a Marine drill sergeant.

I recommend Director Leonardo Espina, NCRPO director. For the PNP's highest post because he is a **[illegible]** gentleman.

[illegible] PNP a director is a rank as well as a position.)

Only two months as NCRPO chief, [illegible] made Metro Manila cops the most underdisciplined in the entire country... nay the last.

Espina's brand of discipline is a tough act to follow.

* * *

Vice Mayor Rodrigo "Rody" Duterte has received brickbats from the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) for putting up a reward for the capture... dead or alive—of a suspected leader of a one-man syndicate in Mindanao.

Figure 1 is alias "Robin" (right) has a bounty of P5 million if his severed head is brought to Duterte. P4 million if he is dead and P1 million if captured alive.

So, what's wrong if the police shoot him dead if he resists since he's reportedly armed with an M79 machine pistol and **[illegible]** .38 caliber pistol, and, therefore, very dangerous?

Decapitating a suspected criminal who resisted arrest no longer matters since he's already dead anyway.

It's Duterte's way of sending a message to criminals to leave Davao City and do their thing elsewhere.

* * *

As a lad, I remember seeing a severed head of a leader of a Moro outlaw band presented before my father, a Constabulary lieutenant, in one operation in South Luba, Isabela.

The man had beheaded a soldier who was killed in an ambush, my father told me when I became an adult.

After that decapitation incident, no soldier killed in combat was beheaded by Moro outlaws, according to my father.

Teen with stage 3 lymphoma needs ₱50,000 for surgery

By Santiago B. Alvarado

BISAYA, Ivo Illana, Orion—the Bagumi resistance to go to school.

The boy who turned 13 years old only last Sunday was diagnosed six years ago with stage 3 **[illegible]** large cell lymphoma. He is currently a Grade 5 student at Bagong Sarili Elementary School in Caloocan City.

ELEVADO

"To give way to his weekly checking, monitoring and chemotherapy every Thursday, the school allows him to attend classes only on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Friday is supposed to be a reading down period," his teacher, Gemalin told the Inquirer.

She said this doctors at Philippine Children's Medical Center in Quezon City are carefully studying the prospect of operating on the boy because one of the tumors which need to be removed is near his heart.

But if it will benefit their son, Jemalin and her husband Jonathan, a tricycle driver, are willing to take the risk. "The operation, however, will cost us P50,000. I am appealing to your readers for help because we are already finding it hard to cope with our son's weekly chemotherapy expenses of P5,000 for medicines alone," she said.

Jemalin Bagumi can be reached at 0928-6005559. Donation can be made through her husband's BPI bank account in Quezon Bagumi's account number 0480-4834-67).

RESIDENTS of Brgy. La Liga on the UP Diliman campus have opposed the ongoing construction of a two-story barangay hall since on a historic plaza which once provided shelter to Andres Bonifacio and other Katipuneros in 1896.

Anti-epal group rallies vs building of barangay hall on historic site

By Jeannette I. Andrade

DALI © the Anti-Epal Movement's first pro-epal site.

Balikan ito! by Jamie Change trooped the other day to historic Plaza Ilin Ilin in Barangay Brgy. La Liga on the University of the Philippines campus in Diliman, Quezon City, where a two-story annex of a barangay hall to be named after a family of politicians is about to be constructed.

Ang mga kasong dahong ang mga Magsaysay ng barangay hall sa dahong ng plaza? Dahil Macoa basket! They're about to build a barangay hall on a plaza," Jamie Change—TV and theater personality Mae Paner in real life—told the crowd and residents gathered at a covered court.

The group, whose name is a play on the Filipino slang for a swelling problem, targets politicians who unashamedly take credit for government-funded projects by putting their names on tarpaulins, billboards and other mediums.

Together with other members of the Anti-Epal Movement, including cultural activists Carlos Celdran, Paner expressed the group's full support for the residents' plan to stop the construction of a two-story barangay hall annex building on Plaza Ilin, historic site declared a historic site by the National Historical Institute (NHI) in 1998.

This is where Andres Bonifacio and other Katipuneros briefly rested on Aug. 26, 1896, to gather their bearings and plan their next move following a clash with Spanish soldiers at Pinaing Tinio. It is also the site of Holy Cross Parish, the second oldest church in Quezon City.

"This School is virtually the heart of Ilin in Liga. This is where religious culture, history and community converge. They (politicians) would ignore the plaza's history just to have a building with their names on it," she said.

According to her, it was bad enough that politicians would put their names on tarpaulins announcing the projects but to destroy a historical site was worse.

The lessons was told the two-story building, a P4-million project spearheaded by barangay chair Aiden Sotto and funded by Councilor Vicente Belmonte, would be named Belmonte Hall. It would be an annex of the first Belmonte Hall, a three-story building which serves as the barangay hall and police precinct.

Portions of the plaza have already been dug up for the laying of the foundation for the new building which would be built in front of the old hall.

Holy Cross Parish priest Fr. Jun Mateo Jubierto told the lessons that he and other residents found out about the project only when they received the invitation for the groundbreaking ceremony on Sept. 15.

"There was no consultation among the residents so we were surprised," Jubierto said.

He said the church and residents in the area have interests in both the barangay chair and Councilor Belmonte to express their opposition to the project, but they have yet to be approached.

A signature campaign was also launched with more than 2,000 residents signing a petition calling for a halt to the project, but this was also ignored by both officials.

The lessons, however, learned from the scientist that he was scheduled to hold a dialogue with residents yesterday at city hall. He is one of several Belmonte who hold elective positions in the city. The others are his uncle, Rep. Feliciano Belmonte, whose daughter is Quezon City Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte.

A longtime resident of the area, Lolo Francisco, 85, spoke to the crowd and said that as a child, she used to play with other children in the area.

"History was made in that plaza which is something that should be cherished," she told them.

Joan Francisco, a 68-year-old resident who was born in the area, remembered that every afternoon, he and his friends would gather on the plaza to talk about their boss or listen to the radio.

"Sometimes we would share ghost stories. Then the children would run away because they would get scared," Francisco said.

Sangguniang Kabataan Chairman Ariel Inton said the plaza has long been the venue for meeting friends or special occasions.

"Where will we hold the Easter Salubong (The ritual recreating the first meeting of Jesus and Mary after His resurrection) or the Santacruzan?" Orillaneda, an opposition, asked.

The lessons cited but failed to answer Inton's question.

For his part, former barangay captain and now councilor Alberto Cruz said the building would serve as an office for him and seven other councilors.

"The current office space is so small. The children are very close to each other and we can hardly move and work. Sometimes, we would ask the staff of the barangay captain to lend us their desks," he said.

The current barangay have offices for their councilors, he added. "We need the office so we can perform our duties."

Contrary to the claims of the residents that they were not consulted, Cruz said the construction of the building was supposed to be the barangay chair initially said it would be a museum.

"We should not question the project because it is for the convenience and future councilmen," he added.

Jamie and other members of the Anti-Epal Movement, meanwhile, called on the MRT to intervene and stop the demolition of historic Plaza Ilin Ilin.

"It was leader Inton to said it's been for homes. Mine kind of [illegible] Inton to follow the [illegible] ," he said. With a report from Rima Grunch

MetroBriefs

Robbers kill 27-year-old call center agent

A 27-YEAR-OLD call center agent was killed after he choked two robbers who took his bag on Dimasalang Street in Sta. Cruz, Manila, on Sunday afternoon. Lynmar Pine customer relations specialist and his abductor died on arrival at a nearby hospital. Initial police investigation showed that Pine was waiting for a cab to take him to work when two men on a black motorcycle snatched his bag. Pine ran after them and managed to yank his bag away from the back rider. His action, however, caused the driver to lose control of the vehicle which fell on his side. The robbers then stood up, took out their guns and shot Pine. They also took his bag and fled on their motorcycle. **Marlon R. Bernardo**

UV Express driver suffers heart attack on road

A PUBLIC utility driver crashed his car into a road center island in Quezon City after he suffered a heart attack while behind the wheel of his vehicle yesterday morning. Edgar Magsumon was later declared dead on arrival at Quirino Memorial Medical Center where he was rushed by a fellow driver. The 46-year-old victim died at the UV Express van which he was driving at the corner of EDSA and Tandang Sora, Quezon City. Chief Investigator SPO1 Jaime Jimena of the Quezon City Police District said the driver was on his way back to Marikina City to pick up more passengers when he apparently suffered a heart attack. "He had just finished his lunch somewhere in Novaliches and was going back to get more," the investigator said. Police learned that Magsumon, a resident of 555 Village in Marikina City, owned the UV Toyota Grandia van he was driving. At 1:40 a.m., the van with license plate TWC 808 had just passed by the Quezon Memorial Circle when it veered out of control and went up the center island. Another UV Express driver, Rolando Lisunggan, was driving in the area when he noticed the van. Curious, he went back to check and found Magsumon already unconscious but still breathing. Lisunggan called for help and the passenger was then rushed him to the hospital. **Julie M. Aurelio**

QCPD is best Metro police district

THE QUEZON City Police District (QCPD) was recognized as the best police district in Metro Manila during the 111th anniversary of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) yesterday. Aside from top honors, the QCPD also went home with six other awards out of 14 given at the NCRPO headquarters in Bicutan. "We congratulate our members for a job well done, and their high quality of professionalism and dedication. They have shown in discharging their duties and responsibilities," said QCPD director Chief Supt. Elmer Dela Pena. The QCPD was also adjudged as having the best public safety battalion headed by Senior Supt. Gerardo Custodio, its Women and Children Protection Desk (WCPD) headed by Senior Insp. Rowena Lumicao also took home the best WCPD unit. **Julie M. Aurelio**

Did you know

THE NATIONAL Museum located on Padre Burgos Drive in Ilagan is one established in October 1991. It originally served the broader Museum of Ethnology, Natural History and Commerce. It is tasked with the preservation and protection of cultural properties for safekeeping. **Ashain Ghoraishi, Inquirer Research**

Greek editor arrested over Swiss bank list

ATHENS—Greek police arrested the editor of a weekly magazine for publishing a list of more than 2,000 names of wealthy Greeks who have placed money in Swiss bank accounts, police said on Sunday.

The so-called "Lagarde List"—given to Greece by French authorities in 2010 with names of Greek account holders at HSBC in Switzerland to be probed for possible tax evasion—has been a topic of heated speculation in the Greek media. It is named after International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde, who was French finance minister when it was handed over.

"Hit Disc" magazine published 2,059 names, including those of some well-known business and political figures on Saturday, after it said hopeful held deposits worth 2 billion euros until 2007.

The magazine said it had been sent the list anonymously.

Authorities did not confirm if the list was authentic.

Editor Costas Vaxevanis was arrested for violating laws on releasing private data on Sunday, police said. He was released pending trial after appearing before a prosecutor.

"He published a list of names without special permission and violated the law on personal data," a police official said.

"There is no proof that the persons or companies included in that list have violated the law. There is no evidence that they violated the law on tax evasion or money laundering," the official added.

The list has reopened much discussion in cash-hankering Greece, where public anger at politicians and the wealthy elite grows as austerity measures take a toll on the poorer sections of society.

The names of two politicians on the list have been retrieved in packages sent for investigation, court officials said.

VAXEVANIS

In a video sent to libraries by his magazine, Vaxevanis appeared on camera to defend his decision to publish the list.

"I did nothing other than what a journalist is obliged to do. I revealed the truth that they were hiding," he said. "If anyone is accountable before the law then it is those ministers who hid the list, lost it and said it didn't exist. I only did my job. I am a journalist and I did my job." He accused authorities of trying to muzzle the press.

"The important thing is that a group of people—whose fortune is starving—make a profit and try to evade the (Greece they want," he said.

"Treasures in parliament [they will] rain in on 100,000 euros in pay for the Greek civil servant, for the Greek worker, while at the same time most of the 2,000 people on the list appear to be evading tax by secretly sending money to Switzerland." Officials surrounding the list have published one to seven weeks.

Reuters

Facebook used to kidnap, lure Indonesian girls into sex trade

By Margie Mason

DEPOK, Indonesia—When a 14-year-old girl received a Facebook friend request from an older man she did not know, she accepted it out of curiosity. Days later, the girl was forever raped, leading to a brutal story that has stunned Brazil as sexual predators find new ways to exploit Indonesia's growing obsession with social media.

The junior high student was quickly smitten by the man's smooth online flattery. They exchanged phone numbers, and his attention increased with rapid-fire texts. He convinced her to meet in a mall, and she found him just as charming in person.

They agreed to meet again. After chilling for hours after school, she told her mother she was going to visit a sick girlfriend on her way to church choir practice, the climbed into the man's stolen car. Instead of driving to the girl's house, he took her to a hotel, where he raped her.

The man, a 24-year old who called himself Waji, drove her an hour to the town of Depok, West Java, she told The Associated Press in an interview.

There, he locked her in a small room inside a house with at least five other girls aged 14 to 17. She was drugged and raped repeatedly—losing her virginity in the first of her many sexual assaults.

After one week of torture, her captor told her she was being sold and delivered to the faraway island of Bintan, known for its seedy brothels and child sex tourism that caters to men coming by boat from nearby Singapore.

She sobbed hysterically and begged to go home. She was beaten and told to shut up or die.

As the past year, 27 of the 329 children reported missing to Indonesia's National Commission for Child Protection are believed to have been abducted after meeting their rapists on Facebook, said the group's chairman, Seto Mulyadi Sirait. One of those believed to be the social media victims has been found dead.

In the month since the Depok girl's ordeal, there have been at least seven reports of young girls in Indonesia being abducted by people they met on Facebook. Although no solid data exists, police and aid groups that work on trafficking issues say it seems to be a particularly big problem in the Southeast Asian archipelago.

"Maybe Indonesia is kind of a unique country as far those the reports start coming in, you will know that maybe it's not one of the countries, maybe it's one of a hundred countries," said Anjar Rose, a program officer who works on child online protection issues at ECPAT International, a nonprofit global network that helps children in 70 countries. "The internet is such a global medium, it doesn't differentiate between the economy of the country in the culture."

Websites that track social media say Indonesia has nearly 50 million people signed up for Facebook, making it one of the world's top users after the United States. The capital, Jakarta, was recently named the most active Twitter city by third-based social media monitoring company Semiocast. In addition, networking groups such as BlackBerry and Yahoo messenger are wildly popular on mobile phones.

Many young Indonesians, and their parents, are unaware of the dangers of allowing strangers to see their personal information online. Teenagers frequently post photos and personal details such as their home address, phone number, school and hangout spots, giving anyone willing the access to find them and learn everything about them.

"We are facing against time, and the technology frenzy over Facebook is a trend among teenagers here," Wasit said. "Police should move faster, or many more girls will become victims."

The 27 Facebook-related abductions reported to the commission this year in Indonesia have already exceed 10 similar cases it received in all of 2011. Overall, the National Task Force Against Human Trafficking said 691 children were trafficked last year, mostly for sexual exploitation.

Many activists fight child sex crimes in Indonesia believe the real numbers are much higher. Missing children are often not reported to authorities. Stigma and shame surround sexual abuse in the world's largest Muslim-majority country, and there's a widespread belief that police will do nothing to help.

An ECPAT International report estimates that each year, 40,000 to 70,000 children are involved in trafficking, pornography or prostitution in Indonesia, a nation of 240 million where many families remain impoverished.

The US State Department warns that girls wanted that many Indonesian girls are being recruited via social media networks. In a report last year, it said trafficking victims have "exacted at midnight kidnapping of girls and young women for sex trafficking 'pickup' by a family friend or relative."

Online child sexual abuse and exploitation are common in much of Asia. In the Philippines, kids are being forced to strip or perform sex acts on live webcams—often, by their parents, who are using them as a source of income, said Leonardo Bing, regional representative for Terre des Hommes Netherlands, a nonprofit working on trafficking issues. AP

Transforming the urban poor through clean water

FOR INFORMAL SETTLER families in Metro Manila, access to clean, affordable water is a big problem because they do not have the legal rights and economic means to secure regular water connections. As a result, they end up paying more for their water supply.

On average, these families spend about P300 weekly for their water supply—roughly three to four times more than what households with regular service connections pay for.

And since their supply comes from community wells, private water re-sellers and illegal connections, the health of these poor families is always put at risk every time they use the water.

"Halos lahat ng mga sakit, nandito na yata sa amin," Tondo resident Ma. Rosalyn Quilino remarked. Sanitation is another nagging problem.

"Every other day lang kung tingnan ang mga bata bago pumasok sa eskuwela. Kapag nakakalipas naman sila, nasasabad narito ang tagpuan sa isang pare pamphlets at banyo," said Cita Saavedra, a 33-year-old resident of Pook Pag-Asa in Balara Hills, Quezon City.

She added, "Mahalaga pagkaka-long kami kapag may pamilyi ng nabig-kong sakit, magiliw na lang nitong Nanalokan na lang sila sa aminod na bagay."

Water for all

On July 28, 2010, the United Nations declared that clean water is a fundamental human right. But even before then, Water Zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (Maynilad) was already operating and expressing this belief.

Maynilad launched its Sustaining Tubig Maynilad (STM) program in Tondo, Manila in May 2000, because the company believed that informal settler families deserve clean, affordable water.

Designed to benefit urban poor families with no legal rights and financial resources to apply for individual water service connections, STM would eventually bring more than just water to its beneficiaries.

The program mentioned marginalized neighborhoods into empowered communities.

Empowering communities

Lydia Cardenete, a 54-year-old retired teacher admits the huge difference it made to have a program like STM in their community. "Ang laki ng pinagbago dito at lagot tayo'ng mga nang-dumating ang STM. Bukod sa STM, naroon kami sa simula ng komunidad center," said Cardenete, who is also the president of STM Tondo.

Initially conceived to benefit informal settler families (ISF) or households occupying non-for lots, STM later expanded its target beneficiaries to include informal IHIs such as Gawad Kalinga communities, since these groups encountered the same water supply problems that greatly affected their living conditions.

Maynilad launched a "community-based water management" approach in its overall strategy so that beneficiary residents are directly involved in the day-to-day operations and administration of the water supply.

First step is to determine possible program beneficiaries by reviewing the target community's location, population density, possible right-of-way conditions, capacity to pay, and socio-economic factors using a survey questionnaire.

Maynilad then forms the residents into community organizations or STMOs, and later provides values formation and water management training so they can have the necessary skills and, more importantly, the attitudes, to properly handle and manage the water distribution system in their communities.

After this, members of the newly-established STMOs sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Maynilad so they are guided on their duties, responsibilities and limitations as water system administrators.

To provide ISFs' communities with water, Maynilad installs a bulk water system using one of two distribution frameworks. For individual settlers, the company installs a mother meter and the STM installs sub-meters in all of the housing units since they already have provisions for piped-in water connections.

Under bulk distribution frameworks, the water service connection is placed under the name of the STM to reinforce community accountability and, in the case of informal settlers, to relocate the need to resolve the land ownership disputes. Land tenure issues and right-of-way conflicts.

In the event that the IHIs are relocated or relocated, Maynilad can easily remove the public faucets and mother meter.

All STMOs are also allowed to sell the water with a minimal markup fee so they could generate funds for operational expenses and community development projects.

Reaping the benefits

Over 19,000 residents from 12 poor communities are now benefiting from Maynilad's STM program. After years of poor hygiene, physical hardship and financial strain, they now have access to clean, affordable water.

The beneficiaries are also spending much less on their water supply since the STM program was implemented in their community. On average, they now spend only P81 every week, which significantly brought down their water expenses.

Furthermore, the STM empowered have been able to fund livelihood and economic programs from their water collections. In Balara Hills, the STM is even using their earnings to fund the renovation of their St. Martin de Porres Chapel.

In Tondo, STM members residents even received funding and training from the Department of Science and Technology for their livelihood projects. "After the first year anniversary of our STM, Maynilad encouraged us to look for other sources of living like making Kapeza, a line of handicrafts products, fabric conditioners, detergents and dishwashing liquids," recounted Cardenete.

"The success of our STMs is a testament to this community's pursuit of water. We consider ourselves fortunate that we are in a position to bring clean water and provide a change to those who need it most," said Maynilad President and CEO Ricky Vargas.

"Kasto aquatter lang kami, naninirahan sumisi ang pagpapabuhay ng Maynilad. Dahil sa mainis na tubig, nanter kaming magkaro ng aming palipat at hindi na rin nagkakasakit ang mga bata. Gumasa at gumaliwas ang aming buhay," added Cardenete.

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Greco

Storm adds to US bets' grim scenarios

WASHINGTON—In the dark of night, when they get what little sleep they get these days, the people running the campaigns for president have more than enough fodder for nightmares. Worse, come daybreak, they realize they may yet come true.

Dunning in their heads are reports of terrorist, contested ballots and lawsuits. The possibility that their candidate could win the popular vote yet lose the presidency from the outside chance of an Electoral College tie that throws the contest to Congress.

Now add to that jumble of potential horrors one more: a freakish two-in-one, zenith-of-God storm that could, if the **storm** dire forecasts prove correct, wind up election eve panic and $2 billion in the making.

Despite the methodical planning, careful strategies, polling, **advertising** and **get-out-the-vote** efforts, the election could produce the sort of messy outcome that defies expectations and prognostication. Polls show such a **tight** race between President Barack Obama and Mitt Romney heading into the final week that the two sides are playing out any number of wild possibilities.

The approach of Hurricane Sandy reminded them just how out of their control democracy can be.

"Obviously, we believe the more people participate in the election, the better," said David Axelrod, the president's senior strategist, "and the storm can be disruptive. But in the 50 million people in its path, there are more immediate and potentially grave concerns than seasonal politics. We'll have to wait and see its impact."

The storm forced both candidates to scrap campaign stops and, with eight days until Election Day, will impede Obama to enhance the roles of president in an emergency and candidates. That could benefit or hurt him, depending on how voters view his performance, and distract from efforts by both camps to advance a closing argument.

Early voting, which Obama **has** counted on to bolster his chances of a second term, will most likely grind to a halt in some places along the Eastern Seaboard, while power failures could last much of the week and considerably curb election day in some places. It may surprised by no one that Virginia, among the most tightly contested states, may be among the most affected.

Meteorology is only one wild card facing the campaigns in the final week. On election day, the science may not be known right away. results in one or more **states** may be close enough to merit recounts. In Ohio, which could decide the election, so many provisional ballots may be cast—and by law are not counted right away—that it may be mid-November before a victor is declared.

"The Boy Scout motto comes to family—be prepared," said Timothy Hallett, a Republican campaign and veteran of George W. Bush's successful fight in Florida. "I know that lists of local lawyers and national legal talent are assessed and will be deployed if need be. After the recount in 2000 and the nail-biter in 2004, the Grand Old Party is ready with multiple scenarios already modified."

The campaigns are so worried about every element now that a top attorney expert on election committee was invested in ads in Maine, a largely Democratic state, because it allocates some electoral votes by congressional district and Republicans have a chance of picking up a single vote there.

Of all the messy outcomes, the one that seems likeliest is a candidate winning the presidency through the Electoral College despite losing the popular vote, much as Bush did in 2000. If it happens again, it might be in the opposite way, with the Republican, Romney, in range of a popular plurality and the Democrat, Obama, with an apparently easier route to an Electoral College victory.

Charlie Cook, a well-known political handicapper, said the chance of that happening was 10 to 15 percent. Stanley B. Greenberg, a longtime Democratic pollster, put the odds at "one in three."

"Not trivial," Greenberg said of the chances. "If that happens, it is because the anti-Obama vote, mostly in the South, turns out in big numbers," while the pro-Obama vote is not as overwhelming in Democratic states. Either way, both men see the top in vital places like Ohio, Iowa and Nevada.

If Obama wins a second term while losing the popular vote, it would again throw a harsh spotlight on the Electoral College, an artifact of the 18th century. Such votes are also unusual for each of its members in the House and Senate. With 538 electors, it takes 270 to win. If no one does, the House decides.

In 1800, Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr received the same number of electoral votes. The House took 36 ballots before, in 1824, none of four candidates received an electoral majority, and John Quincy Adams won in the House although he trailed Andrew Jackson in both the popular and the electoral votes.

Two other presidents, Rutherford B. Hayes in 1876 and Benjamin Harrison in 2000, won in the Electoral College even though they lost the popular vote. *New York Times News Service*

CALM BEFORE THE STORM President Barack Obama walks from the White House with his daughters Sasha, left, and Malia to attend Sunday service at St. John's Episcopal Church in Washington, on Oct. 28. —

A MAN searches the rubble of a destroyed building in Binnish following air strikes by Syrian regime forces on an area under control of rebels fighters. —

China protesters force chemical plant halt

SHUYANG, China—Protesters who forced a Chinese city to halt a new chemical plant massed outside government offices Monday in a rare response to their victory, which highlighted the country's growing environmental activism.

Authorities in Ningbo city said Sunday that work on the $5.5-billion yuan ($8.9 billion) oil refining and petrochemical complex would stop after thousands of local residents clashed with police in a week-long protest.

The demonstrations and apparent victory of local residents in the latest example of environmental unrest stemming from public anger over pollution wrought by decades of rapid industrialization.

But despite the government promise to halt the new plant of Chinese energy giant Sinopec, some Ningbo residents on Monday questioned their belief in faith in public officials by saying they feared the city could revive the project.

Outside the Ningbo city government offices on Monday police sought to disperse hundreds of people still massing, through the gathering was peaceful, an AFP journalist, who was briefly detained by police, witnessed.

Private users also supported in Shenhai, the proposed site for the factory, despite a heightened security presence.

"Under-anxiety, it is perhaps not a unifying work... the city government felt pressure and was eager to wind this matter up, so there's no victory for us," said Ningbo resident Hu Jia Di Jiao 11 on a microblog.

The protests came ahead of a once-in-a-decade Communist Party congress meeting November 8 at which new leaders will be selected. Ahead of the delicate handover, authorities are keen to present a show of harmony.

An editorial in the state-run China Daily newspaper on Monday said a rising number of environmental protests "should serve as a warning" to officials with economic development had to be changed.

"No many local governments are still preoccupied with gross domestic product," it said. AFP

Syria air force bombs cities; truce deemed 'practically over'

BEIRUT—Syrian jets bombarded rebel Muslim regions in Damascus and around the country on Sunday, activists said, as President Bashar al-Assad kept up air strikes against rebels despite a United Nations-brokered truce that was supposed to be in tatters.

The Local Coordination Committees activists organization said air strikes killed 14 civilians, including women and children, in the town of Rastan in the northern province of Homs, where fighting has continued between Assad's forces and rebels who have seized large parts of the rugged region. "The ceasefire is practically over. Damascus has been under bread air raids since day one and hundreds of people have been arrested," said veteran opposition campaigner Ammar Nikko, who is well connected with activists.

Speaking from Berlin, Nikko said fierce clashes in the city of Homs, 160 km (90 miles) north of Damascus and surrounding countryside came under Syrian army shelling on Sunday.

It was not possible to verify events because of Syrian restrictions on media access.

Both sides in the 19-month-old conflict have violated the ceasefire to mark the Muslim Eid al-Adha holiday. Brokered by international peace envoy Lakhdar Brahimi, the truce supposedly began on Friday, the first day of the four-day holiday.

Syrian authorities blame "terrorists" for breaking the truce and the opposition says a ceasefire is impossible while Assad moves tanks and uses artillery and jets against populated areas.

A statement by the Syrian military said "Islamic" rebel violations proved they went to "fragment and destroy Syria." "These terrorist groups must be confronted, their criminals chased and an iron fist used to exterminate them and save the homeland from their evil," the statement said.

Brahimi hopes to end the conflict that has killed at least 32,000 people and further destabilized the Middle East. It began with a popular revolt in March but year against four decades of authoritarian rule by Assad and his late father, Hafez al-Assad.

The ceasefire won international support, including from Russia, China and Iran, President Assad's main foreign allies.

But the truce seems destined to share the fate of failed peace efforts that have preceded it, with dozens of people continuing to be killed daily and international and regional powers at odds while they back different sides. *Reuters*

Arrest widens BBC sex scandal

LONDON—The arrest Sunday of a former BBC star widened the scandal surrounding the late television host Jimmy Savile, who died last October, days after the British police accused a former pop star in connection with the case.

Metropolitan Police arrested Paul Gadd, better known as Gary Glitter from the 1970s heyday of glam rock, who is a convicted pedophile and has spent a Hollywood sensation that he abused a teenage girl on the premises of the BBC. He was released on bail late Sunday after he was questioned on a London police station.

Since the British television disclose 8% broadcast a documentary about Savile earlier this month, some 300 people have come forward claiming that they were abused by the influential television star. They described a depraved circumstance in Savile's dressing room at the BBC studios where teenage girls were molested by Savile and others including Gadd.

The case has shocked the nation and shone an intense spotlight on the BBC. Nagging questions remain about why an investigation into Savile by the "Newsnight" program was shelved. Newsnight abruptly cancelled last December, and how much its executives knew about serious allegations that one of its stars had engaged in widespread sexual molestation for the 1970s and 1980s.

Mark Thompson, the incumbent chief executive officer and president of The New York Times Co., was director-general of the BBC when the decision was made to drop the "Newsnight" investigation into Savile. Thompson initially said that he knew nothing about the accusations against Savile before the "Newsnight" investigation, but later acknowledged that a reporter, Caroline Hawley, had mentioned it to him at a reception shortly after the investigation was halted.

On Sunday, a British newspaper, The Sunday Times, reported that other colleagues were made to question Thompson about the allegations against Savile, who died in October 2011. A freelance journalist wrote in the newspaper that he asked Thompson's office in May of this year, asking about the accusations that Savile had abused girls on BBC premises.

The list that the network had decided not to air the "Newsnight" program about Savile was for from a secret. "The was in six of November and January and February," said David Hunt, a former chief executive of Channel 5, a BBC competitor.

"The big falling internally, and also is where Mark comes into the picture, is the deliberate inconsistency of the senior executives," said Hunt, who formerly worked his four years at the BBC. "There is a culture of sending knowledge so as to evade responsibility."

On Sunday, a spokesman for Thompson said: "In March has made it clear, he had no involvement in the decision not to proceed with the 'Newsnight' investigation into Jimmy Savile."

Now Britons are asking how a sexual predator, and perhaps his fiends, could operate without detection in some of the nation's most respected institutions, such as the BBC but in hospitals and schools around the country where assault by Savile are alleged to have taken place.

The police indicated last week that seven would be more, sending shivers through the ranks of celebrities who appeared on Savile's television shows, like "Top of the Pops" and "Jim'll Fix It," and who found that their names would be thrown into the scandal, as well as former employees and associates. AP/AFP

BRITISH rocker Gary Glitter in a March 1, 2006, photo. —

Two-thirds of Australians overweight, study finds

SYDNEY—Two-thirds of Australia's adult population are overweight or obese, a key study found on Monday, with rates continuing to climb despite a drop in smoking and drinking.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) said people were continuing to pile on the kilos despite other findings indicating a switch to healthier habits.

The study found 63.4 percent of the population are were classified as overweight or obese—an increase of more than two percentage points from four years ago.

"The proportion of overweight adult Australians has increased by more than two percentage points, meaning that nearly two-thirds of the population are now classified as overweight or obese," said ABS statistician Paul Jelbi.

The figure compares with 56.2 percent in 1995 and 61.2 percent in 2007-08.

Jelbi said the 2011-12 Australian Health Survey of 33,000 people found that 73.2 percent of men and 53.2 percent of women were losing what he called the "battle of the bulge," with one-quarter of children also classed as overweight.

The survey described by ABS as the "largest check-up on the nation's health ever undertaken," calculated whether or not people were too heavy using the Body Mass Index (BMI) system.

The formula for calculating a person's BMI is weight in kilograms divided by height in metres squared. The resulting number then tells researchers whether the individual is overweight for their height.

Australia is ranked fifth among advanced nations in terms of obesity after the United States, Mexico, New Zealand and Chile, according to the OECD. AFP

IN THIS ISSUE

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- **Meralco hikes 2012** income projection to P16B /B8

Editor Raul G. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

All T-bill yields now below 1%

0.463% for 91 days; 1-year rate at 0.95%

By Nonoy V. Domingo

YIELDS on treasury bills yesterday fell across the board, bringing the rates for all three maturities below one percent.

The interest on the 91-day treasury bills continued to slide, settling at 0.463 percent or a decrease of 24.9 basis points. Yesterday's result for the benchmark bills was also 21.2 basis points lower compared to the corresponding 0.675 percent average rate for three deals at the Bureau of the Treasury.

The yield on the six-month securities fell by 23 basis points to 0.7 percent while the rate for the one-year bills slid by 40 basis points to 0.95 percent.

In the secondary market, prevailing rates for the 182-day bills was 51.5 basis points higher at 1.033 percent and for the 364-day paper, 31 basis points higher at 0.91 percent.

The Bureau of the Treasury raised a total of P75 billion as planned. Investors tendered a total of P216.86 billion or more than three the total offering.

National Treasurer Roberto S. Tan said in an interview that rates in the primary market were still going down as the country's economic fundamentals and the government's fiscal performance continued to get stronger.

The Treasury last week reported that the budget deficit for January to September reached P190.1 billion, which was just 58 percent of the P328.2-billion target. However, the nine-month deficit was twice the P93 billion that was recorded in the same period of 2011.

"Even if the budget deficit has increased, it is still in comfortable level so the market is not expecting the government to borrow aggressively," Tan said. "Also, we have just swapped out the issuance of retail treasury bonds (RTBs) and the market knows we are not in a situation that we are looking for cash."

Earlier this month, the Treasury announced that it raised a total of P9.06 billion from the sale of 25-year RTBs, including

ALSO

Bangko Sentral prods banks to cut loan rates

By Michaella V. Barcia

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas said it wanted banks to finally reflect the one percentage-point cut in key policy rates done so far this year on essential lending rates as a further boost in domestic spending could come in handy in case global economic woes worsen.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said monetary authorities were keen on seeing the rest of credit to dull further rates in interbank rates were now at historic lows.

"We have done four rate cuts so far this year. We want to see the full impact of the rate cuts on the economy," Tetangco told reporters yesterday.

Last Thursday, the BSP cut its key policy rates by 25 basis points, bringing the overnight borrowing and lending rates of the central bank to new record lows of 3.5 percent and 5.5 percent, respectively.

It was the fourth time this year that the central bank cut its rates. Prior to Thursday, the BSP reduced its rates by 25 basis points in January, another 25 points in March and 25 basis points in July.

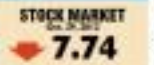
Key policy rates influence commercial interest rates. With the rate reductions, lending rate percentage points as far this year, the

BANGKO SENTRAL B2

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
Oct. 29, 2012
41.275

STOCK MARKET
Oct. 29, 2012
7.74



Stocks close lower

THE Philippine stock exchange index dipped yesterday, reversing early session gains, as jittery over global growth seemingly soured trading across the region.

The Philippine Stock Exchange index shed 7.74 points or 0.14 percent to close at 5,301.42 despite news of a fresh sovereign credit rating upgrade by Moody's.

The downbeat sentiment across the region was dampened by concerns over a new recession hype at the global economy combined by fallen Fitch sentiment in developed markets in Bernanke weighing down regional markets. "The week ended soft in a way meant [that] the lingering euro zone crisis and political uncertainty surround[ing] the US presidential election," said BDO Unibank Inc.

The overall bellwether counter for the day was mixed at. The financial, holding firm and services counters also closed lower while the industrial and property sub-indices managed to post modest gains. Value turnover for the day amounted to P5.2 billion. There were 81 advancers, while losers outnumbered by 86 decliners, while 62 stocks were unchanged.

Investors continued to shy away from large-caps, favoring instead undervalued issues.

The index was weighted down by the decline of PLDT, SMC, Metrobank, MPI and SP Globalle. The index stocks, mostly listed Gold Fields, and Security Bank suffering gains.

The PSEi's decline was hampered by the gains of ALI, ALI, DFC, Megaworld, BPI, SM Prime and Ayala.

The day's outperformers were somewhat stocks like EVER (+40.00 percent), Goodyear (+21.21 percent) and Unilab (+3.667 percent). Bloomberg disclosed yesterday the issuance of 488.05 million shares to holding firm JP Globle on PCEI pursuant to its capital increase to P12 billion from P800,000. Dawn C. Chanelo

P28.5-B Ayala Center redevelopment takes shape

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE P28.5-BILLION redevelopment of Ayala Land Inc.'s "crown jewel" Ayala Center has taken shape with the debut of two upscale hotels, two new office buildings and a revitalized Glorietta shopping center before the year ends.

Local property giant ALI is also set to launch this November a new high-end two-tower residential development Garden Towers, the first skyscraper of which will cost P3 billion to build. The launch of the new residential project under the Ayala Land Premier brand followed the rollout of the three-tower Park Terraces where 1,320 units are now 95 percent sold since the first tower was unveiled in 2010.

By November, the 52-room all-suite Raffles Makati and the 289-room Fairmont Hotel will open their doors to affluent business and leisure travelers—the newest luxury accommodations for both in the Makati central business district in nearly two decades. They will share a 30-story building with high-end serviced apartments Raffles Residences with 237 units, of which 113 units will be included in ALI's hotel inventory. Raffles Residences will occupy the 11th to 30th floors, Raffles Makati, the 9th to 18th floors while Fairmont will be at the 3rd to 8th floors.

By April 2013, a third hotel brand—the 346-room mid-budget Holiday Inn and Suites Makati, which will be directly connected to the Glorietta 5th—will also open for business.

"This is the most ambitious program Ayala has done," ALI president Bernardo Ajapahe told reporters during a briefing. "We're almost complete and about to inaugurate various components."

Raffles will offer accommodations starting at $200 a night while Fairmont will offer at the $200 to $250 per night. Holiday Inn will offer accommodations for $100 a night.

"As we pursue our growth strategy with the development of other business districts in Metro Manila and across the country, we will continue to reinvent Makati so it remains its place as the premiere destination in the Philippines," Ajapahe said. "Makati began the trend of master-planned communities in the Philippines over 50 years ago. It will remain a prime

PHILIP A. ELLO

Pagcor income surges past P31B in 9 months

By Daniel G. Lucas

IN WHAT could be a preview of the strong potential of the gaming industry in the country, the state-owned Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) yesterday disclosed a sharp increase in its profit for the first three quarters of 2012 due to its gaming operations.

In a statement, the gaming agency said that its gross income—its operating profit before its subsidies are considered as such—generated agency—reached P31.15 billion in the first nine months of the year. This represented a 16-percent increase, or a total of P4.39 billion, from the P26.76 billion reported during the same period of 2011.

Pagcor chair and CEO Cristino Naguiat Jr. said the latest figure meant that the agency's revenues have been growing by close to half a billion pesos a month or P1.5 billion a quarter, with the most significant improvement coming from its gaming operations.

"The winnings from our gaming facilities nationwide continue to be the biggest contributor to Pagcor's coffers," he said. "In fact, our generated winnings of P21.44 billion from the table games and slot machine operations of our casinos and satellites as of end-September 2012."

PAGCOR B2

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SM Prime net profit rose 15% to ₱7.4B in 9 months

New malls, China operations boost sales

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S biggest shopping mall developer SM Prime Holdings Inc. grew its nine-month net profit by 15 percent year-on-year to ₱7.4 billion, underpinned by growth from new malls, same-store sales and improved operations in China.

SM Prime's net profit accounted for about 72 percent of the ₱10.3-billion consensus Bottomline forecast for the Henry Sy-led company.

For the third quarter alone, SM Prime posted up its net income by 16 percent to ₱2.46 billion, the company disclosed in the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday.

SM Prime's January to September net revenues amounted to ₱52.1 billion, up 15 percent from a year ago while cash flow as measured by earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (Ebitda) rose 12 percent to ₱19.4 billion for an Ebitda margin of 38 percent.

Revenues from July to September reached ₱17.52 billion, or a 15-percent year-on-year increase while Ebitda for the quarter grew 13 percent to ₱6.89 billion for an Ebitda margin of 40 percent.

"Our performance for the first nine months of 2012 gives us confidence in reaching our full-year target. We think that our business environment will remain positive on the back of a strong domestic economy. Moreover, we anticipate this trend to continue as we approach the holiday season, when consumer spending is considerably strong," SM Prime president Hans Sy said.

The nine-month growth was largely attributed to trends from new Philippine malls opened in 2010 and 2011, same-store sales of 8 percent and the improved performance of SM's China malls.

On the expenditure side, operating expenses during the first nine months increased by 14 percent to ₱18.45 billion from a year ago due to higher administrative expenses, particularly utilities and manpower expenses, business taxes and film rentals. Income from operations increased by 13 percent to ₱33.60 billion from the same period last year.

In terms of gross revenues, the four malls in China contributed ₱1.9 billion in the nine-month period this year compared to ₱1.49 billion last year, accounting for 9 percent of consolidated revenues against 8 percent in the comparative period in 2011. Gross revenues of the four overseas malls increased by 27 percent this year compared to the same period last year, which was attributed to improvements in the properties occupancy level, lease renewals and the opening of SM Seniors Lifestyle and SM Southcove (which added 182,000 square meters of gross floor area).

The average occupancy rate for the four malls in China is now at 96 percent.

SM Prime has 46 supermalls in the Philippines with a total gross floor area of 5.5 million square meters. Its four supermalls located in the cities of Xiamen, Jinjiang, Chengdu and Suzhou in China have a total gross floor area of 600,000 square meters.

Price manipulation target

MARKET RIDER

Dave Sumaoyo

A LIKELY price for price manipulator for "suppressors," the level resistant of the day and many traders of the market, owing to its relatively small size and modest par value price offer in its initial public offering (IPO), Coal Asia Holdings Inc. (COAL) has done well, so far, since it made its listing debut last Oct. 22.

On the first day of trading, COAL opened at ₱1.36, hit a low of ₱1.34 and closed for the day at the session's high of ₱1.38 a share, effectively garnering an average price of ₱1.4694 or a 46.9-percent gain from its offer price of ₱1. Total volume amounted to 301.31 million shares on a total value turnover of ₱416.27 million.

The following day, COAL opened at ₱1.07, hit a high of ₱1.08, dropped to a low of ₱1.41 and rose at ₱1.50 to maintain a 50-percent premium over its offer price. Total volume reached 249.02 million shares valued at ₱360.67 million. On Oct. 25, the price of COAL opened higher as it did the first two days at ₱1.53, hit a high of ₱1.57, dropped precariously as ₱1.38 before recovering to close again at ₱1.50. Total volume fell to 95.82 million shares worth ₱138.14 million. There was no trading last Fri. day, a public non-working holiday.

Even if COAL's market performance was limited to the three days last week, those were illustrative enough of what it is to contend with in the coming days.

Public offering

COAL is a holding investment company. Its "primary purpose is to engage in the acquisition of companies specializing in the exploration, development and mining of coal and other energy-related businesses in the Philippines and around Asia."

Dean Billiton and Exploration Co. (DMEC), a wholly owned subsidiary, is COAL's vehicle to the coal business. DMEC owns three coal operating contracts (COCs) in Mindanao—in Davao Oriental and in Zamboanga del Sur.

Based on documents submitted relative to the public offering, COAL through DMEC's build the country's second-largest power coal deposits at a combined quantity of 120 million metric tons (MT), composed of 77.1 MT in Davao Oriental and 51.1 MT in Zamboanga del Sur.

The purpose of the IPO is for COAL to "raise ₱726.87 million in net proceeds" from the issuance and offer of 800 million common shares equivalent to 20 percent of total issued and outstanding capital stock. It will allocate about ₱650 million to prioritize the development of the Davao Oriental project in order to put it to production as early as the second half of 2013. It is also setting aside ₱60 million to complete exploration activities in the Zamboanga del Sur project that will advance DMEC's coal operations.

With this work program, COAL intends to become "the second-largest local coal producer with the potential to become the biggest producer of high-grade bituminous coal."

As discussed in its submitted documents, its Davao Oriental mine "is expected to have a higher calorific capacity of 6,500 to 10,000 BTU (as-received) compared to that produced by Semirara Mining Corp., which is rated at around 8,000 to 11,000 BTU (washed).

With about 5% billion in market capitalization based on last traded price, COAL presented over the weekend to hold talks with a local power company in setting up a "mine-mouth power plant" in the Davao Oriental mine which an initial power capacity ranging from 100 to 200 MW. According to plans, the capacity of the power plant will be expanded "to at least 400 MW once the Davao mine has its full production capacity of 1 to 2 million tons a year."

This will make the company a "serious player in the local energy arena, particularly in alleviating the power shortage in Mindanao" and, more importantly, provide the needed supply of coal to other local energy producers. This will also make COAL a strategic supplier of "steam grade coal to the country's cement plants, ceramics and manufacturing plants that have converted their diesel-powered plants into coal-powered plants to mitigate costs."

In a surprise move, COAL is also in service talks with PetroGeo Philippines Inc. "to venture into the oil and gas business." It is in the process of negotiating oil exploration plans in Service Contract (SC) 6 in Palawan, particularly in the Cadlao and Boracay blocks that are expected to produce up to 71.448 barrels of oil (bbl).

COAL is the fourth company to go public this year following GT Capital Holdings Inc. (GTCAP), which was listed on April 30 in the bourse's first board at the offer price of ₱400, and Whitecorp (TEEN) in the second board through listing by way of introduction.

Bottom line spin

Looking at the way the shares of COAL traded last week, it was quite clear that it had been subjected to deliberate "short selling attempts and/or profit-taking effort" by "suppressors" and perceived market losers. Its, it continued to round 50-percent premium level from the original of its price of ₱1 a share.

Such force against the onslaughts of short sellers and profit takers or market bears can only be attributed not only to the market making effort of the company's principal appointed to have a bullish bias of market bulls who could see the potentials of the company in any market play the stock's price performance can only be sustained by the fundamentals behind it.

As a result of the successful initial fund-raising exercise, COAL is expected to realize a conservative net income of ₱600 million in 2014 from coal business, based on the conservative price estimate of $80/MT of coal. If the current price rebounds to $90/MT). Earnings could go up higher as projected coal output increases in the succeeding years.

Based on related documents in the public offering, initial audited coal resources are valued at ₱12.5 billion. This supports an asset value for COAL of ₱1.125 a share. COAL appears to be the company every point to an energy and oil and gas investment, inc. its potential stake in Nido/Oil Philippines may lead it, accordingly to partake in the latter's production output that could "translate to a great cash flow of up to $20 to $30 million" in 2013.

Lastly, even in its coal business alone, COAL has a projected lower price-earnings ratio (PE multiple) as compared to listed Semirara Mining in its estimated earnings for the dividend year and next year.

(The writer is a licensed stockbroker of Regis Equities Inc. You may reach via market finder at market@regisinvest.com.ph , dave.sumaoy@ymail.com or at www.bagotalk.com)

Bangko Sentral prods banks to cut loan rates

Previous page B1

BSP wanted bank lending rates to decline on that demand for loans would also increase.

But the BSP reported last week that since the start of the year, the "passthrough rate" was still just at 80 percent. "Pass-through," which measures the influence of changes in the BSP policy rates to bank lending rates, is the proportion of the decline or increase in bank lending rates to the decline or increase in the central bank's key policy rates. The BSP said that from January to the middle of October, bank lending rates fell by an average 80 basis points compared with the 75-basis point total cut in the key policy rates of the BSP during the period.

Tetangco was quoted yesterday as saying that the BSP still had room to reduce key policy rates some more following the reduction done last Thursday. The central bank chief said yesterday that such flexibility to lower rates would be used depending on factors like the movements of domestic prices, developments in the global economy and the reflection of the four policy rate cuts in the commercial lending rates dangled by banks.

2GO Group set to redeem 4.5M preferred shares in December

2GO Group Inc., the country's largest shipping firm, is redeeming over 4.5 million preferred shares this December in line with plans to delist from the stock exchange.

According to a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange on Monday, the shares, which will be redeemed at P6 each, will also be delisted from the local bourse once redeemed.

"The Board of Directors of 2GO Group Inc. approved the redemption of all remaining outstanding redeemable preferred shares held by each eligible stockholder of such shares at a price of P6 each," the company said.

The company said the redemption of the shares would be done on Dec. 6, during which the trading suspension for the shares would be lifted by the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) to allow for the transaction.

The P6 price is a significant premium over the preferred shares' value of P3.12 each when those were last traded in January 2012.

Data from the PSE showed that the company issued 4.56 million preferred shares trading under the symbol 2GOP.

In December 2010, the major stockholders of 2GO—Aboitiz Equity Ventures and privately held Aboitiz & Company, Inc. (ACO)—approved the sale of their shares in 2GO to Negros Navigation Co. Inc. (Nenaco). The sale was consummated on Dec. 28, 2010.

The equity value included all the logistics and shipping businesses of 2GO except its interest in its joint venture companies with the Aboitiz Group of Norway.

The Aboitiz group ended up with 93.2 percent of the total outstanding common shares of 2GO.

In February 2011, as a result of the mandatory tender offer requirement, Nenaco's controlling interest in AES increased by an additional 4.92 percent.

The Aboitiz group, however, disclosed in its March 2011 report to the Securities and Exchange Commission that it still owned 93.2 percent of 2GO.

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MPTC to delist shares from PSE

Toll road firm chooses not to comply with public ownership rule

By Paolo G. Montecillo

METRO Pacific Tollways Corp. (MPTC), the country's largest private toll road operator, will delist itself from the stock market on Dec. 21 after choosing not to comply with local public ownership requirements.

In a disclosure Monday, the Manuel V. Pangilinan-led firm said its parent firm Metro Pacific Investments Corp. would conduct a tender offer for MPTC shares still in the hands of the public from Oct. 29 to Nov. 28.

MPIC intends to buy from the market 7.46 million MPTC shares at P6.50 each. These shares represent 0.15 percent of MPTC's outstanding capital.

"Following the completion of the tender offer and subject approval of the delisting by the PSE (Philippine Stock Exchange), all of the issued and outstanding common shares of MPTC will be delisted from...and no longer be available for trading on the PSE," the company said in a disclosure.

MPTC advised its minority shareholders to tender their stock, saying that the delisting would "have no impact on an MPTC shareholder in terms of its tax affairs."

"In addition, any capital gain generated by an MPTC shareholder from any subsequent sale or transfer of shares will be subject to the prevailing capital gains taxes and documentary stamp tax instead of the stock transaction tax applicable to sales transacted through the PSE," it added.

MPIC already owns 99.849 percent of MPTC's outstanding capital stock.

Listed companies with a public ownership of less than 10 percent face trading suspension by the first trading day of 2013 if they are unable to meet the 10 percent requirement for continued listing on the PSE.

During the trading suspension, sale of shares may only be done "over the counter" or outside the PSE's trading system.

These transactions will be subject to a capital gains tax of between 5 and 10 percent.

On the other hand, trades or shares of listed companies enjoy the preferential tax rate of one-half of 1 percent.

Aquino Jose Pangilinan shares on sale of shares—equivalent to 5 percent for transactions up to P100,000 and 10 percent for those in excess of P100,000—trades on unregulated companies will be slapped with a documentary stamp tax of 75 centavos on each P200 of the par value of the stock.

MPTC operates the Metro Manila Expressway (NLEx), the country's oldest toll road, connecting Metro Manila with key northern provinces such as Bulacan and Pampanga. It stretches from Balintawak, Quezon city to MacArthur Highway in Malolos, Bulacan.

The company reported a 53-percent increase in profit at the end of the first half of 2012 to P826 million on the steady traffic along NLEx. Core profit also rose by 12 percent to P814.8 million in the same operating years.

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LWRC retains stake in $1-B Belle Grande project

By Doris C. Dumlao

GAMING firm Leisure & Resorts World Corp. (LWRC) will remain part of the $1-billion Belle Grande project that will rise in front of Pagcor Entertainment City next year, the company said.

In a statement issued Tuesday, LWRC said it would contribute P6 billion to the project and get a share of Belle's earnings from the gaming and commercial space as well as a piece of investment income.

Although not a party to the Belle Corp.-Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd. gaming deal finalized last week, LWRC will get a share of Belle's economic interest in the project.

In its statement, LWRC said it signed last July 5 along with its wholly-owned subsidiary SB Leisure Global Inc. (SBLGI) an amended memorandum of agreement with Belle and Premium Leisure and Amusement Inc. (PLAI).

The exchange for the ARGO's overtime, SBLGI shall be entitled to 50 percent of the fixed yearly income generated from the leasing of all commercial space in the project, inclusive of the hotel, retail and casino premises," LWRC said.

"Moreover, ARGO shall be paid fees equivalent to a 50 percent of PLAI's 50 percent share of the Hotels (meetings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization) from casino operations or 50 percent of PLAI's 75 percent share of the net win, whichever is higher, after deducting PLAI's casino win which is based on gross win," the statement said.

Overall, this stake will be equivalent to an estimated overall economic interest of 8 percent in the project and a net income of 44 percent for Belle, said Cesar Cataluna, treasurer valuation officer at SM Investments Corp., which holds a controlling interest in Belle.

Under the old arrangement when Melco was not yet part of the consortium, Belle was to get 15 percent of net winnings, or 50 percent of the casino's cash flow whichever is higher.

LWRC and its operators originally were supposed to lease the premises from Belle.

LWRC said it, along with ARGO, agreed to amend their previous agreements because of the changes in the developmental guidelines issued by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. on July 16, 2011, which effectively and essentially changed the terms and conditions of the provisional license granted to the 600 concessions in December 2000.

Per licensure, Pagcor now requires that an 800-room hotel portfolio be up and running before the casino operations of Belle's or other's operations, requiring the front-loading of greater capital outlays.

Per its part, ARGO's estimated contribution of P4 billion to the project will be funded through debt and internally generated income, LWRC said.

The corporation added that this contribution would account for 38 percent of Belle's share in the project.

Bloomberry is a developer and owner of integrated resort facilities located on the Bloomberry.

Its "City of Dreams" complex is a highly entertainment that houses a gaming facility, a Crown Hotel, a Grand Hyatt Hotel, a Hard Rock Hotel and an upscale retail experience, along with a suite of bars and restaurants that are drawing crowds mainly from Hong Kong and China. This complex is also known for "The House of Dancing Water" show.

The Manosa casino group—which is owned by Lawrence Ho Yau Ling, son of casino mogul Stanley Ho Hung Sun and Australian billionaire James Packer—is building its second integrated resort in Macau called "Studio City."

PHILIPPINE RACING COMMISSION
INVITATION TO BID
MULTI-YEAR CONTRACT OF SECURITY SERVICES FOR PRO N/A
(ITB No. PRCOM-12-01)
1. The Philippine Racing Commission (PRCOM), through its corporate operating budget intends to apply the sum of four million nine hundred sixty one thousand pesos (Php4,961,000.00) being the approved budget for the Contract (ABC) for the four (4) year contract of security services for the Project. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.
2. The Philippine Racing Commission (PRCOM) now invites bids for the Contract of Security Services. Delivery of the Goods is required from January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013. Bidders should have completed within the [illegible] years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II - Instructions to Bidders.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, cooperatives, or associations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subsequent Commonwealth Act 138.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below starting October 30, 2012 to December 3, 2012 upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of five thousand pesos (Php5,000.00).
5. The Philippine Racing Commission (PRCOM) shall conduct a Pre-Bid Conference on November 12, 2012 2:00 p.m. at the Conference Room, Philippine Racing Commission (PRCOM), which attendance thereto is not compulsory but highly encouraged for bid submission.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before December 3, 2012, 2:00 p.m. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following forms and in the amount stated below:

Form of Bid Security	Amount of Bid Security
a) Cash or cashier's/manager's check issued by a Universal or Commercial Bank	Php98,220.00
b) Bank draft/guarantee or irrevocable letter of credit issued by a Universal or Commercial Bank: Provided, however, that it must be confirmed or authenticated by a Universal or Commercial Bank, if issued by a foreign bank	
c) Surety bond callable upon demand issued by a surety or insurance company duly certified by Insurance Commission as authorized to issue such security	Php245,575.00
d) Any combination of the foregoing	Proportionate/equivalent amount of form and amount of bid security required of each

Bid opening shall be on December 3, 2012, 2:00 p.m. at the Conference Room, Philippine Racing Commission (PRCOM). Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.
7. The Philippine Racing Commission (PRCOM) and Awards Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
8. For further information, please refer to: [illegible] from October 30, 2012 to December 3, 2012 during Mondays to Fridays 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the following address:
Cristina Cruzado
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee
Philippine Racing Commission
Philippine Racing Commission Building
Tel. No. (632) 925-1655 loc. 214
Telefax No. (632) 925-1655 loc. 211
E-mail address: bac.prcom@philrace.gov.ph
Approved by:
GEN. NARCISO LIM
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee
Philippine Racing Commission

All T-bill yields now below 1%

From page B4

P123.05 billion through the selling agents during the eight-day public offering period and P412.99 billion that was sold to the selling agents themselves through a two-day listing auction.

Yesterday, tenders for the 91-day bills reached P5.06 billion, or almost six times the P1.1-billion offer. Bids for the 182-day securities totaled P9.33 billion, or almost four times the P3.5-billion offer. Those for the 364-day paper reached P9.15 billion, or more than twice the P4-billion offer.

P28.5-B Ayala Center redevelopment takes shape

From page B4

example of sustainable urbanization and the main retailer for transformation this year at the Ayala Center."

The Ayala Center makeover is over looming 6Us recurring revenues. In addition to the acquisition this December of the Glorietta redevelopment, with a gross floor area of 54,000 square meters (sqm) of retail space, the ambitious redevelopment also includes the addition of two office towers with a gross floor area of 50,000 sqm. The office towers will cater to business process outsourcing firms.

At the Glorietta shopping center, which has 650 existing stores, 20 new stores will be added. The complex will also have a "resort-like" activity center for diverse, mixed-use clusters.

The redevelopment plan, the first phase of ALI's long-term master plan for Ayala Center, covers only a third of the 24-hectare prime property. Again said, it is also part of ALI's P65-billion investment plan for six major districts initiated in 2011.

The gaming firm's contributions to make-up for the three quarters of 2012 included 3% (P1.05 billion in the form of the 5-percent franchise tax to the Bureau of Internal Revenue; 19.6% billion representing 50 percent of the government's share, which was remitted directly to the National Treasury; P490 million as 1-percent share of the Philippine Sports Commission; P367 million as casino host-city; for their various community projects; P1.74 billion to the President's Social Fund; P2 billion as direct assistance to socio-civic projects; P21 million representing the 1 percent Board of Claims' share, and P456 million for the payment of corporate income tax to the BIR and sports initiatives for the government's sports programs.

Pagcor income surges past P31B in 9 months

From page B1

"This is higher by P3 billion compared to the P16 billion in winnings we earned from our gaming operations from January to September 2011," he added.

During this period, Pagcor's main casinos reported winnings of P14.51 billion, while its satellites operations, arcades and VIP clubs generated gaming income of P6.12 billion.

Pagcor—which acts as both a gaming regulator and operator—also earned P9.46 billion from other related services and sources, including regulatory fees that it collect from licensed casinos and income share from other gaming activities such as games, commercial bingo and poker.

The amounts collected from licensed operators was bigger by almost P1.12 billion from the 2011 figures, the agency said.

"Pagcor's performance during the first nine months of the year is proof that our operations can stay strong despite the presence of private casinos," Nograles said. "We accomplished this by bringing our strengths into play. We expanded our operations and we provided our clientele with better gaming amenities, better shows and better marketing presence."

As part of its mandate, the agency also funded the operations of various government agencies engaged in various activities from sports to charitable work. So far this, Pagcor's January to September remittances to its mandated beneficiaries totaled P16.15 billion. "This was higher by P6.35 billion compared to the P12.76 billion in remittances allocated to various building in the same period of 2011," the Pagcor chief said.

The gaming firm's contributions to make-up for the three quarters of 2012 included 3% (P1.05 billion in the form of the 5-percent franchise tax to the Bureau of Internal Revenue; 19.6% billion representing 50 percent of the government's share, which was remitted directly to the National Treasury; P490 million as 1-percent share of the Philippine Sports Commission; P367 million as casino host-cities for their various community projects; P1.74 billion to the President's Social Fund; P2 billion as direct assistance to socio-civic projects; P21 million representing the 1 percent Board of Claims' share, and P456 million for the payment of corporate income tax to the BIR and sports initiatives for the government's sports programs.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID
PROCUREMENT OF BIOLOGICAL REFRIGERATOR AND X-RAY FLOURESCENCE ANALYZER
MCR-BQ-HSPSP-01-2012

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a grant from European Union (EU) toward the cost of Health Sector Policy Support Programme II (HSPSP II) Project, and intends to apply the sum of Four Million One Hundred Thirty-Nine Thousand Philippine Pesos (PhP4,4,139,000.00) from this grant to payments under the contract for the Procurement of Biological Refrigerator and X-Ray Flourescence Analyzer. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.
2. The Department of Health (DOH) now invites Bids for Procurement of Biological Refrigerator and X-Ray Flourescence Analyzer. Delivery of the Goods is required within thirty (30) days upon receipt of the Notice to Proceed. Bidders should have completed, within the past two (2) years:
   a. At least two (2) similar contracts for local and international contracts and the aggregate contract amounts should be equivalent to at least fifty percent (50%) of the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC); and
   b. The largest of these similar contracts must be equivalent to at least half of the fifty percent (50%) of the (ABC) as required above.

   The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

   Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the CDRAC Secretariat, 5/F Bldg. 6, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday.

   A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on October 29 to November 16, 2012 on from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of One Thousand Philippine Pesos (PhP1,000.00).

   It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity. Provided that Bidders who are interested to participate shall pay the nonrefundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.
5. The DOH will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on **05 November 2012, 11:00 A.M.** at CDRAC Conference Room, Ground Floor, Bldg. 6, Department of Health, Sta. Cruz, Manila which shall be open to all interested parties.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **19 November 2012, 10:00 A.M**. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in **ITB** Clause 1.10.

   Bid opening shall be on **19 November 2012, 10:00 A.M.** at CDRAC Conference Room, Ground Floor, Bldg. 6, Department of Health, Sta. Cruz, Manila. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.
7. The DOH reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

CDRAC Secretariat
Department of Health
San Lazaro Compound
Sta. Cruz, Manila
Tel. Nos. 651-7800 local 1525 to 1527; 1660 to 52
Facsimile No.: 741-9775; 742-8632

(Sgd.) **HERMOGEN T. GARO, MD, MPH, CESO II**
Undersecretary of Health
CDRAC Chairperson

(PD - Oct. 30, 2012)

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- team player, quality oriented, result oriented
- willing to travel and work

III. Project Assistant - Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator
- at least 4-5 years experience in monitoring and evaluation programs, preferably
- willing to work under pressure while maintaining accuracy
- team player, quality oriented, result oriented
- computer literate in MS Word, Excel, Power Point
- independent, analytical and good communication skills, ability to prepare technical reports and writing skills

IV. Project Assistant – Finance Officer
- At least 4-5 years experience in NGO accounting
- Knowledgeable in government funded projects
- Computer literate in MS Word, Excel, Power Point

Qualified applicants may send their application letter, resume (1 - 2) pictures & Transcript of Records and certification addressed to the:

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ABS-CBN Building, Sta. Mesa Heights,
Mariano Ponce cor. Broadcast Road,
Quezon City

Or e-mail at: [illegible]@yahoo.com

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AUCTION SALE

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS FOR SALE

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Regional Office No. 5, Rawis, Legazpi City

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Calabidan Survey Project (Category "B") and Pili Aluminitan Survey

1. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources Region No. 5 now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOI) and Expression of Interest (EOI) from qualified Consulting Entities (CEs) to render consulting services for the Calabidan Survey Project and Pili Aluminitan Survey.

Reference No.	Activities	Duration	Cost
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	Detailed Mineral Survey	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	Monitoring of Ore Mining Practices	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	Pili Aluminitan Monitoring Practices	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	Calabidan Survey	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	Monitoring of Mines Practices of Calabidan	[illegible]	[illegible]

2. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources Region No. 5 now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOI) and Expression of Interest (EOI) from qualified Consulting Entities (CEs) to render consulting services for the Calabidan Survey Project and Pili Aluminitan Survey.

   A copy may be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, if any. Provided that Bidders who are interested to participate shall pay the nonrefundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

3. The DENR reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

   For further information, please refer to:

   [illegible]
   Regional Office No. 5
   Rawis, Legazpi City
   Telefax: (052) 481-2041
   [illegible]@yahoo.com
   October 22, 2012

   (Sgd.) [illegible]
   Regional Executive Director

(PD - October 30, 2012)

Republic of the Philippines
ALAMINOS CITY WATER DISTRICT
Poblacion, Alaminos City, Pangasinan 2404
Tel. Nos. (075) 552-2040 / 552-7140; Fax: (075) 552-2040

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR THE LABOR AND MATERIALS FOR THE 4.1 KM. ACWD PIPE LAYING PROJECT

1. The ALAMINOS CITY WATER DISTRICT, through the 2012 ACWD CORPORATE BUDGET intends to apply the sum of EIGHT MILLION FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P8,400,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the LABOR AND MATERIALS FOR THE 4.1 KM. ACWD PIPE LAYING PROJECT. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.
2. The ALAMINOS CITY WATER DISTRICT now invites bids for LABOR AND MATERIALS FOR THE 4.1 KM. ACWD PIPE LAYING PROJECT. Completion of the Works is required within NINETY CALENDAR DAYS. Bidders should have completed, within the past two (2) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project (a) specific, contract (SOC) of ABC). The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

   Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from ALAMINOS CITY WATER DISTRICT and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P3,000.00).
6. The ALAMINOS CITY WATER DISTRICT will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on November 13, 2012, 10:00AM at the ALAMINOS CITY WATER DISTRICT Conference Room which shall be open only to pre-registered parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before November 26, 2012, 10:00AM. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause.
8. The ALAMINOS CITY WATER DISTRICT reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
9. Participating Contractor must have a valid PCAB License for "Water Supply / Sewer Works" or Higher.
10. For further information, please refer to:

(Sgd.) **MS. ZACELINA S. GOMEZ**
BAC Chairperson
Alaminos City Water District
Alaminos City

(PD – Oct. 30, 2012)

MAY TRABAHO

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JOB

AGUSAN DEL NORTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Brgy. 1-A, Poblacion, Butuan City
Tel. Nos. (085) 815-7000 / 815-7001; (085) 342-4040
Email: [illegible]@yahoo.com

INVITATION TO BID

The Agusan del Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ANECO) through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), hereby invites to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following projects:

Description	Date/Time		
	Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline/Receipt of Bids	ABC (Allowable Cost)
Supply and installation of computerized billing and collection system with bulk meter reader	November 7, 2012 10:00 a.m.	November 20, 2012 2:00 p.m.	P 1,000,000.00

Bidding documents shall be issued to interested eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee as indicated above. Sealed offers must be accompanied by a bid bond or manager's check equivalent to 2% of the ABC. Bids received higher than the ABC shall be automatically rejected.

Interested bidders, prospective manufacturers of Bidding Requirements shall be available at the BAC Secretariat's Office for clarification and inquiries. Bidders or authorized representatives who failed to attend the pre-bid conference will have an alternative to participate in the bidding.

ANECO BAC hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids without incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders and to waive any defect in the bidding and to accept the bid which in the BAC's determination is most advantageous to the Cooperative.

Noted by:

(Sgd.) **HERMOGEN L. GARCIA**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(Sgd.) **ARNOLD T. LANTO**
General Manager

(PD – October 30 & 31, 2012)

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Metro Manila
Fifteenth Congress
Third Regular Session

Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-third day of July, two thousand seven.

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10228]

AN ACT CONVERTING THE MUNOZ STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE (MSCA) IN THE CITY OF KABANKALAN, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL AS AN EXTENSION/SATELLITE CAMPUS OF THE CENTRAL PHILIPPINES STATE UNIVERSITY (CPSU) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

Section 1. *Conversion.* – The Negros State College of Agriculture in the City of Kabankalan, including its extension campuses in the municipalities of Hinoba-an, Ilog, Candoni, Moises Padilla, Hinigaran and in the cities of San Carlos, Sipalay, Himamaylan and Victorias, all located in the Province of Negros Occidental, is hereby converted into a state college to be known as the Central Philippines State University (CPSU), hereinafter referred to as the University. The main campus of the University shall be in the City of Kabankalan.

Sec. 2. *General Mandate.* – The University shall primarily provide advanced education, higher technological, professional education and training in agricultural fisheries, science, forestry, education, computer studies, engineering, arts and sciences and other relevant fields of study. It shall also promote, undertake research, extension services and provide progressive leadership in its areas of specialization.

Sec. 3. *Curricular Offerings.* – The University shall offer undergraduate and graduate studies in the fields of agriculture, fisheries, animal science, forestry, education, computer studies, engineering, arts and sciences, short-term technical courses and such other degree programs within its areas of specialization and according to its capabilities, as the Board of Regents may deem necessary to carry out its objectives and in order to meet the needs of the Province of Negros Occidental and Region VI.

The University shall maintain and operate a laboratory-based secondary school, under the College of Education in the main campus.

Sec. 4. *Administration.* – The University shall have the general powers of a corporation under Section 36 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 68, as amended, otherwise known as "The Corporation Code of the Philippines". The administration of the said school and the transaction of its corporate affairs shall be vested exclusively in the Board of Regents and the President of the University.

Sec. 5. *The Governing Board.* – The governing board of the University shall be the Board of Regents, hereinafter referred to as the Board, which shall be composed of the following:

(a) The Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), *ex-officio*;

(b) The President of the University, *Vice-Chairperson*;

(c) The Chairperson of the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture of the Senate, member;

(d) The Chairperson of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education of the House of Representatives, member;

(e) The Regional Director of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), member;

(f) The Regional Director of the Department of Agriculture (DA), member;

(g) The President of the federation of faculty associations of the University, member;

(h) The President of the federation of student councils of the University, member;

(i) The President of the federation of alumni associations of the University, member; and

(j) Two (2) prominent citizens from the private sector who have distinguished themselves in their profession or fields of specialization, members.

The Board shall appoint the two (2) prominent citizens from among a list of at least five (5) qualified persons in the Province of Negros Occidental, as recommended by the search committee constituted by the University President, in consultation with the Chairperson of the CHED and the other members of the Board, based on the normal standards and qualifications for the position and by the Board.

The President of the federation of faculty associations, the President of the federation of student councils and the President of the federation of alumni associations shall remain on the Board only for the duration of their terms of office, as set forth in their respective constitutions and bylaws.

The two (2) prominent citizens shall serve for a term of two (2) years from the date of appointment.

Sec. 6. *Promulgation and Implementation on Policies.* – The Board shall promulgate and implement policies in accordance with the declared State policies on education and other pertinent provisions of the Philippine Constitution on education, the Education Act of 1982, the Philippine Qualifications Framework and Manuals of the CHED under Republic Act No. 7722, otherwise known as the "Higher Education Act of 1994".

Sec. 7. *Powers and Duties of the Board of Regents.* – The Board shall have the following specific powers and duties, in addition to its general powers of administration and the exercise of all the powers granted to the Board of directors of a corporation under existing laws:

(a) To promulgate rules and regulations not contrary to law as may be necessary to carry out the purposes and functions of the University;

(b) To create and appropriate all funds as may be provided for the support of the University in the manner it may determine in the discretion, in order to carry out the purposes and functions of the University;

(c) To import economic, technical and cultural books and/or publications;

(d) To receive in trust legacies, gifts and donations of cash and personal properties of all kinds and to administer and dispose of the same when necessary for the benefit of the University, and subject to the limitations, directions and conditions of the donor, if any;

(e) To fix the tuition fees and other necessary school charges such as, but not limited to, matriculation fees, graduation fees and laboratory fees, as the Board may deem proper to impose, after due consultations with the involved sectors;

Such fees and charges, including government subsidies and other income generated by the University, shall constitute special trust funds and shall be deposited in any authorized government depository bank, and all amounts that shall accrue therefrom shall form part of the same funds for the use of the University;

Any provisions of existing laws, rules and regulations to the contrary notwithstanding, any income generated by the University from tuition fees and other charges, as well as from the operation of auxiliary services and land grants, shall be retained by the University, and may be disbursed by the Board for instruction, research, extension or other program/projects of the University: *Provided*, That all fiduciary fees shall be collected for the specific purposes for which these are collected;

If, for reasons beyond its control, the University shall not be able to operate any particular program, the funds for which are appropriated and allocated in the approved program of expenditures, the Board may authorize the use of said funds for any reasonable purpose which, in its discretion, may be necessary and urgent for the attainment of the objectives and goals of the University;

(f) To adopt and implement a scholarship scheme of tuition and other school fees for greater access to poor but deserving students;

(g) To authorize the construction or repair of its buildings, machinery, equipment and other facilities, and the purchase and acquisition of real property, including necessary supplies, materials and equipment;

(h) To appoint upon recommendation of the President of the University, Vice Presidents, deans, directors, heads of departments/heads of campuses, faculty members, and other officials and employees of the University;

(i) To fix and adjust salaries of faculty members and administrative officials and employees, subject to the provisions of the Revised Compensation and Position Classification System as modified by Joint Resolution No. 4 dated June 17, 2009 and by such other laws and/or guidelines thereto which may hereinafter be enacted, and other pertinent budget and compensation laws governing hours of service and such other duties and conditions as it may deem proper to grant from time to time, to members of the faculty under such regulations as it may promulgate, and to persons in existing law in the ministry notwithstanding, and to conduct them to leave in accordance with the requirements of such policies of law;

(j) To approve the curricula, instructional programs and rules of discipline drawn by the Administration and Academic Councils herein provided;

(k) To set policies on admission and graduation of students;

(l) To award honorary degrees upon persons in recognition of their outstanding contribution in the fields of education, public service, arts, sciences and technology, agriculture or in any field of specialization within the academic competence of the University, and to authorize the awarding of certification of completion of vocational and technical-level courses;

(m) To establish and absorb constituent/extension institutions within the Province of Negros Occidental as branches and centers, in consultation with the CHED and in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the offer thereto/congress on courses to promote and protect agricultural/economic industrialized opportunities as mandated by the Constitution;

(n) To establish research and extension centers in the University where such will promote the development of the latter;

(o) To establish professorial chairs in the University and to provide fellowships for qualified faculty members and scholarships to deserving students;

(p) To delegate any of its powers and duties provided in the immediately preceding paragraph to the officers of the University as it may deem appropriate, so as to expedite the administration of the affairs of the University;

(q) To authorize an external management audit of the University subject to the rules and regulations of the Commission on Audit (COA), and to institute reforms, including systems and structural changes, on the basis of the audit results and recommendations;

(r) To collaborate with other governing boards of the state colleges and universities within the Province of Negros Occidental, in the event of the supervision of the CHED, and audit towards the restructuring of the University's corporate name, affiliated, structure and composition, in consultation with the CHED;

(s) To enter into joint ventures with academia and industry for the profitable development and management of the economic assets of the University, the proceeds of which shall be used for the development and strengthening of the University;

(t) To develop consortia and other economic forms of linkages with local government units (LGUs), institutions and agencies, both public and private, local and foreign, in the furtherance of the purposes and objectives of the University;

(u) To develop academic arrangements for institutional capability building with appropriate institutions and agencies, public and private, local and foreign, and to appoint experts/consultants as consultants, partners or visiting or exchange professors, scholars or researchers, as the case may be;

(v) To set up the adoption of modern and innovative modes of transmitting knowledge such as the use of information technology, the dual learning system, open learning or distance education and community laboratory, for the promotion of greater access to education;

(w) To establish policy guidelines and procedures for participative decision-making and transparency within the University;

(x) To prohibit, where it will adversely affect the University, the management of school stores and canteens as well as hostels, food, dining or groceries or property maintenance and such other similar activities; and

(y) To administer the term of the President of the University beyond the age of retirement but not beyond the age of seventy (70), where the incumbent has been unanimously rated by the Board as outstanding, based on the guidelines, qualifications and/or standards set by the Board, after unanimous recommendation by the search committee.

Sec. 8. *Meetings of the Board.* – The Board shall regularly convene at least once every quarter. However, the Chairperson of the Board may, upon three (3) days' prior written notice, call a meeting when (2) special meetings whenever necessary.

A quorum of the Board shall consist of majority of all the members holding office at the time of the meeting: *Provided, however*, That the Chairperson of the Board or the President of the University presiding shall present in the meeting.

In the absence of the Chairperson of the CHED, a Commissioner of the CHED, duly designated by him/her, shall represent him/her in the meeting with all the rights and responsibilities of a regular member: *Provided, however*, That the Chairperson of the CHED or his/her designated Commissioner as Vice Chairperson shall be the presiding officer: *Provided, further*, That this provision notwithstanding, the Chairperson of the CHED or his/her designated Commissioner as Chairperson of the Board shall only be entitled to cast his/her vote in case of a tie vote. The Commissioner shall act as the presiding officer.

In case the Chairperson of the Congressional Committee or his/her alternate shall be able to attend the Board meeting, they may duly designate their respective representatives to attend the said meeting, who shall have the same rights and responsibilities as a regular member of the Board.

The members of the Board shall not receive any salary but shall be entitled to reimbursements for actual and necessary expenses incurred, either in their attendance to meetings or in the performance of their duties, which shall be duly authorized by resolution of the Board, subject to existing laws and regulations.

Sec. 9. *The University President.* – The University shall be headed by a President, who shall hold his/her term at the pleasure of the Board, subject to the guidelines, qualifications and/or standards set by the Board, upon recommendation of a duly constituted search committee. He/She shall have a minimum of ten (10) years of experience in higher education and a holder of a master's degree in the field of specialization: *Provided*, That in order to effect a smooth transition to a state university, the incumbent President of the Negros State College of Agriculture, if qualified, shall serve as the first President of the University.

Within six (6) months before the expiration of the term of office of the incumbent President of the University, the Board shall constitute the Search Committee for the Presidency (SCP).

In case of vacancy in the Office of the President by reason of death, permanent disability, resignation, removal for cause or incapacity of the President to perform the functions of his/her office, the Board shall designate an Officer-in-Charge of the University within six (6) months from the date of vacancy, pending the appointment of a new President.

In case of vacancy in the Office of the President as mentioned in the immediately preceding paragraph, his/her successor or the Officer-in-Charge shall serve only the unexpired portion of the term.

The powers and duties of the President of the University, in addition to those specifically provided for in this Act, shall be those usually pertaining to the Office of the President of similar universities and those delegated by the Board.

The salary of the President of the University shall be in accordance with the Revised Compensation and Position Classification System as modified by Joint Resolution No. 4 dated June 17, 2009 and by such other laws and/or guidelines thereto which may hereinafter be enacted and/or that corresponds to that being received by the Presidents of similar educational institutions.

The President of the University shall be assisted by a Vice President for Academic Affairs and a Vice President for Administration, who shall be appointed by the Board upon recommendation of the President.

Sec. 10. *Heads of University Campuses.* – Each extension campus in the municipalities of Hinoba-an, Cauayan, Ilog, Candoni, Moises Padilla, Hinigaran and in the cities of San Carlos, Sipalay, Himamaylan and Victorias shall be referred to as the University campus.

A Campus Administrator shall head each University campus and he/she shall render full-time service. He/She shall be appointed by the Board upon recommendation of the search committee and the President of the University, subject to the guidelines, qualifications and/or standards set by the Board: *Provided*, That the incumbent College Administrator of an extension campus shall serve as its Campus Administrator.

Sec. 11. *The Administration Council.* – There shall be an Administration Council, consisting of the President of the University as Chairperson, Vice Presidents, deans, directors, campus administrators and other officials of equivalent rank as members, whose duty is to review and recommend to the Board the policies governing the administration, management and development planning of the University.

Sec. 12. *The Academic Council.* – There shall be an Academic Council to be composed of the President of the University as Chairperson, and all academic staff with the rank of at least an assistant professor, as members.

The Academic Council shall have the power to review and recommend the curricular offerings and rules of discipline of the University, subject to the approval of the Board. It shall fix the requirements for the admission of students, as well as for their graduation and conferment of degrees, subject to review and/or approval by the Board through the President of the University. It shall have the disciplinary power over students of the University and shall formulate academic policies and rules and regulations on discipline, subject to the approval of the Board.

Sec. 13. *The Secretary of the University.* – The Board shall appoint a secretary, who shall serve as such for both the Board and the University and shall keep all records and proceedings of the Board. He/She shall serve upon each nomination of the Board the appropriate notice of the Board meetings.

Sec. 14. *The Treasurer of the University.* – The Treasurer of the Philippines shall be the *ex officio* treasurer of the University.

Sec. 15. *The Faculty.* – No political bonds, greater preferences, cultural or economic affiliations shall be required for appointments or promotion of either a native of Negros Occidental or of persons who have resided in the Province for more than said appointment shall be subject to the guidelines, qualifications and/or standards set by the Board: *Provided, further*, That no member of the faculty shall teach for or against any particular church or religious sect.

Sec. 16. *Outstanding Projects/Infrastructure.* – The University shall provide a scholarship program and other measures and efforts to assist poor but deserving students and quality for admission to the University.

No student shall be denied admission to the University by reason of gender, religion, cultural or community affiliation or ethnic origin.

Sec. 17. *Academic Freedom and Institutional Autonomy.* – The University shall enjoy academic freedom and institutional autonomy pursuant to paragraph 2, Section 5 of Article XIV of the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines.

Sec. 18. *Authority to Lease or Transfer Appurtenant Properties and Grant of Franchise.* – The heads of the bureaus and offices of the national government are hereby authorized to lease or transfer, upon the request of the President of the University, such equipment, equipment or supplies as may be needed by the University, and to lease any property of the National Government on the judgment of the head of the bureau or office, such equipment, equipment, supplies or premises of such equipment can be spared without serious detriment to public service.

The employees as detailed shall perform such duties as required of them by the President of the University, and the time so employed shall be counted as part of their regular service.

Sec. 19. *Assets, Liabilities and Personnel.* – All assets, real and personal, patrimonial and ordinary, and all liabilities, patrimonial and ordinary, as well as liabilities or obligations, are hereby transferred to the University. The positions, rights and security of tenure of faculty members and personnel therein employed under existing laws prior to the conversion into a University shall not be impaired.

All parcels of land belonging to the government and occupied by the Negros State College of Agriculture but not titled in the name of the latter, the property of the University, shall be titled in the name of the latter. The Commission on Audit will assist in such or be established or should such parcels of land aforementioned be no longer needed by the University, the same shall revert to the local government.

Sec. 20. *Tax Exemption on Importation and Donations.* – The importation of equipment, technical and cultural books and/or publications, which are for educational, scientific and/or cultural purposes, donated to the University or purchased outright by the Central Philippines State University, upon certification by the CHED, shall be exempt from customs duties in accordance with the provisions of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, as amended.

All donations of any form to the Central Philippines State University shall be exempt from the donor's tax and the same shall be considered as allowable deduction from the gross income of the donor in the computation of his income tax of the donee, in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

Sec. 21. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the Negros State College of Agriculture, except the sums needed to continue the operations of the existing high school, which shall be charged against the appropriations for the continued operation and maintenance of the Central Philippines State University and shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Sec. 22. *Development Plan, Management Audit, Organizational and Administrative Academic Structure.* – Within the period of one hundred twenty (120) days after the approval of this Act, the University shall accomplish the following:

(a) Submit a five (5)-year development plan, including its corresponding program budgets to the CHED, for corresponding recommendation to the DBM;

(b) Undergo a management audit in cooperation with the CHED; and

(c) Accomplish and jointly organizational, administrative, as well as academic structure, including the appointment of the key officials of the University.

Sec. 23. *Filling of Vacancies.* – On or before the fifteenth (15th) day of the month (next month after the opening of the regular classes) each year, the Board shall fill the vacancies (Dean of the President of Non-Philippines through the Chairperson of the CHED), and with such vacancies, if Congress a detailed report on the progress, conditions and needs of the University.

Sec. 24. *Separability Application.* – The provisions of Republic Act No. 4200, (Revised) known as the "Higher Education Modernization Act of 1965", shall be an integral part of this Act and shall serve as part of the Governing Charter of the University.

Sec. 25. *Parity Clause.* – All other powers, functions and privileges, responsibilities and limitations or state universities and/or their officials under existing laws shall be granted to or imposed upon the University and/or its officials whenever appropriate.

Sec. 26. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Board, in consultation with the CHED, shall formulate the guidelines to fully implement the provisions of this Act.

Sec. 27. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 28. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 29. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

JUAN PONCE ENRILE
President of the Senate

FELICIANO BELMONTE JR.
Speaker of the House
of Representatives

This Act which originated in the House of Representatives was finally passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on March 6, 2011 and July 19, 2011, respectively.

LUIS CAMPOS
Secretary of the Senate

MARILYN B. BARUA-YAP
Secretary General
House of Representatives

Approved: OCT. 18, 2011

BENIGNO S. AQUINO III
President of the Philippines

City of Muntinlupa

PART I. Section 1. Invitation to Bid

Supply and construction of concrete pavement and drainage improvement, new trunk sewer line and manhole bottom for the construction of Muntinlupa Commercial Complex Project. Completion of work is required by:

Package No.	Scope of Works	Contract Duration	Selling Price
I	Concrete Works	180 calendar days	5,000.00
II	Construction	180 calendar days	5,000.00
III	Sewer Trenching	120 calendar days	5,000.00

Bidding shall be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is open to prospective bidders from the Government, of duly licensed Philippine Contractors with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) for the Construction Business Line (CBL) and whose business is engaged in civil works construction and related activities necessary for the successful completion of the project. The bidders shall have an experience in the construction of Concrete Pavement and Drainage Improvement, and Trunk Sewer Line Installation. The Schedule Project Cost (SPC) of the Project is Php 15,000,000.00 broken down and more fully described as follows:

Package No.	Scope of Works	Estimated Project Cost
I	CONCRETE WORKS	Php 10,000,000.00
II	CONSTRUCTION	Php 10,000,000.00
III	Sewer Trenching	Php 5,000,000.00
TOTAL		Php 15,000,000.00

The documents prepared by the Bidding Documents shall be submitted as part of the Technical Component of the Bid/Proposal in accordance with the provisions of the IRR.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the Bids and Awards Committee and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from October 30, 2012 to November 19, 2012 at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Php 5,000.00/set. It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS), provided that Bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

The City Government of Muntinlupa reserves the right to reject any bid, to annul the bidding, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

HERCULANO S. ECHOLD
Chairman, City Bids and Awards Committee
City Government of Muntinlupa
City Hall Compound, Poblacion, Muntinlupa, Metro Manila 1701
Telephone: (632) 771-1401
Telefax Number: (632) 8-473-1401

Copy: HERCULANO S. ECHOLD
BAC Chairman

28, 30, 31 2012

CENTRAL PANGASINAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
San Fernando, Pangasinan
Tel. # 602-8170 / 529-4148

INVITATION TO BID

The Central Pangasinan Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CENPELCO) will offer portion of Public Sale Lot to the Cooperative in the form of qualified bidders for the implementation of electrical distribution projects for the Construction of Distribution Line for Expansion Areas (Lot 1) at P.___ to P.___ Bidding shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act" and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

Supply of labor and materials for the construction of distribution line in accordance with the plans, specifications and conditions set forth in the Bidding Documents.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	ESTIMATED COST (AMT. IN PHP)		
	Lot 1	Lot 2	Lot 3
1st DISTRICT	-	-	5,000
2nd DISTRICT	-	-	5,000
3rd DISTRICT	7,000	7,000	5,000
4th DISTRICT	5,000	5,000	5,000
5th DISTRICT	5,000	5,000	5,000
TOTAL AMT. OF LABOR	5,000	5,000	5,000

Interested bidders shall submit a letter of intent together with the bid proposal consisting of the following: Duly accomplished Bid Form, Schedule of Prices, Statement of Qualifications and Experience, and Bidder's Bid Security in the form of Manager's Check or Cashier's Check issued by a reputable bank payable to the Central Pangasinan Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CENPELCO) in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) valid for a period of one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of the bid opening. Bidders shall submit their bid proposal in a sealed envelope addressed to the Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee, Central Pangasinan Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CENPELCO), Tebag, San Fernando City, Pangasinan not later than 10:00 A.M. of November 15, 2012 at which time and place all bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders or their duly authorized representatives. Late bids shall not be accepted.

Bidders may be invited to make any clarification and/or amendment to their proposal during the bidding process. Bidders shall provide adequate proof of their capability and financial resources to carry out the contract, such as but not limited to, latest income tax return, audited financial statements, and certification from the bank regarding the bidder's credit line.

Bidders may be required to submit a post-qualification documentary requirements to establish their capability to perform the contract. Failure to submit the post-qualification documentary requirements within the prescribed period shall be a ground for disqualification.

CENPELCO RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, WAIVE ANY OF THE DEFECTIVE FORMALITY THEREIN AND ACCEPT OR ADD SUCH OFFER(S) MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE COOPERATIVE.

(SGD.) BENEDICTO A. ORDOÑEZ
BAC Chairman

Noted by:
(SGD.) EDGARDO ROMMEL C. CAMPOS
Officer-in-Charge

(PM - January 30 & 31, 2012)

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Give employers a break, ECOP pleads

THE WAY THE APPEAL continued by employers to lawmakers at a closed-door Congressional Conference of the Philippine Jaycees (PJCI) President Edgardo G. Lanzon is the author of an avalanche of bills in both chambers of Congress that could increase employers payroll and competitiveness.

Among the bills cited by Lanzon are:

- Consolidated House Bill No. 5901 which is concerning and concerning which criminalizes committing any unfair, unjust or damnable or directly related to the business of the principal as well as other forms of unscrupulous.
- Senate Bill No. 3087/4506, authored by Sen. Joggers Estrada which radically changes the classification of regular and non-regular employment into contract for definite period;
- HB 5660 (by Rep. Reynaldo Umali), SB 1417 (by Sen. Jinggoy Estrada) and SB 2691 (by Sen. Pia Cayetano), and HB 2691 (by Rep. Jose Enrique), and HB 2691 (by Rep. Jose Enrique) which increase penalties for non-compliance of pro- rated 13th month pay law;
- HB 99 (by Rep. Joggers Estrada), S. SB 1145 (by Rep. Gloria Arroyo and Rep. Ocampo) which mandate the grant of an annual productivity incentive bonus of not less than 30% of net profits before taxes as well as non-diminution of existing benefits, whether granted by law, employee policy/practice or contract and imposes penalties for failure/refusal to pay the productivity incentive bonus;
- HB 4142, authored by Reps. Rodolfo Antiyo and Gloria Arroyo, which increases maternity leave benefits from 60 days to 120 days; and
- HB 6000, introduced by Rep. Rene Velasquez, which seeks to enact a law providing "full reimbursement of monetary awards to employees/employers in labor cases in the Philippines."

There are more than 100 bills pending that are deemed harmful to employers which together with those cited above, are like the "sword of Damocles" hanging over the head of employers, Lanzon said.

ECOP suggested that Congress enact forward- looking bills by taking into account international/economic trends by the private sector in the National Center Economic Council (NEC), which is a public-private task force on Philippine competitiveness. The NEC focuses on 17 areas, namely: education and human resources development; agriculture; infrastructure; power and energy; competency in budget delivery; anti-corruption; ICT (internet) framework; and judicial reform.

OBITUARIES

"Give when I walk through a dark valley, I feel no harm, for Thou are at my side, Your rod and staff give me courage..." — Psalm 23:4

ROSARIO T. DULALIA

has joined our Creator on October 26, 2012 at the age of 82.

Her remains lie at Ambassador viewing room, St. Peter Memorial Chapel, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City until October 29, 2012.

Interment will be today, October 30, 2012. A burial mass will be celebrated at Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon City at 9:00 in the morning. Interment follows immediately at the La Loma Catholic Cemetery. Her family requests the prayers of her relatives and friends for the eternal repose of her soul.

ST. PETER CHAPELS

In Loving Memory
on the 20th Death Anniversary of

JAIME V. DY BUNCIO

Holy Masses will be offered in his memory today, October 30, 2012 at:

Mary the Queen Church Greenhills, Mandaluyong City	6:00 P.M.
Sanctuario de San Jose Greenhills, Mandaluyong City	7:15 A.M.
Christ the King Church Gilmanhadown Ave., Q.C.	6:00 P.M.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church Doña Josefa Rodriguez St., New Manila, Q.C.	6:00 A.M.
Sanctuario de San Antonio Forbes Park, Makati City	6:00 P.M.
St. Francis Church Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City	7:00 P.M.
Cardinal Santos Medical Center Chapel	5:15 P.M.

His family and relatives would like to request friends and relatives to remember him in their prayers.

"Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." — Matthew 11:28

Herminia Luce Escueta

joined her Creator on October 29, 2012 at the age of 84.

Her body lies in state at St. Peter Memorial Chapels, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Her family requests the prayers of her relatives and friends for the eternal repose of her soul.

Interment will be on November 4, 2012 (2:00 p.m.) at Hinalaang Pilipino.

ST. PETER CHAPELS

Minda C. Mangabat

joined her Creator on October 28, 2012 at the age of 63

Her body lies in state at Judges Chapel, St. Peter Memorial Chapels, Quezon Avenue, QC and will be transferred to Ramon, Tarlac today (Oct. 30, 2012).

Her family requests the prayers of her relatives and friends for the eternal repose of her soul.

Interment will be on November 2, 2012.

ST. PETER CHAPELS

AVELINO LACUNA RAMOS

joined his Creator on October 27, 2012 at the age of 82

His body lies in state at Apostolic Chapel, St. Peter Memorial Chapels, Quezon Ave. Mandaluyo, Quezon City.

His family requests the prayers of his relatives and friends for the eternal repose of his soul.

Interment will be on October 31, 2012 after the 9:00 am Mass.

ST. PETER CHAPELS

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
- Copy of Death Certificate
- Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DOLE-NCR Building, 997 Generoso St.,
Makati, Manila
Tel.: 403-8342 • Fax: (632) 403-8241 • E-mail: ncr@dole.gov.ph

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
MNC PHIL. CONST. INC. Unit 803 F Park Trade Center, 5 th Avenue cor Rizal Boulevard Business Park, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Jaehee Choi Korean	Finance Manager
MNC PHIL. CONST. INC. Unit 803 F Park Trade Center, 5 th Avenue cor Rizal Boulevard Business Park, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Jeong Wok Song Korean	Sales Manager
SAMANCHON CONSTRUCTION, INC. Unit 17, 2/F G. Araneta Bldg., 280 Quezon Ave. SF Homes, Paranaque City	Sijin Lee Korean	General Manager
PHOTO ENGINEERING CORP. G-627, Victory Central Mall, 210 Wuchin Rd., Bldg. 673, Dist. 3, Caohsiung City	Shihui Wu Chinese	IT Support
PHOTO ENGINEERING CORP. G-627, Victory Central Mall, 210 Wuchin Rd., Bldg. 673, Dist. 3, Caohsiung City	Kaohsiung II Chinese	IT Support
ARKEMA PHILIPPINES INC. 1st Philippine Logistics Center, Km.44, Lot 1B1-1, Emilio Aguinaldo Highway, Phase 1, Barangay Malabag, Bacoor, Cavite	Marcelo Mahajan Indian	Indian Nationals Expat
SUN GLOBAL ENTERPRISES MANILA, INC. Sun One Ctr., 26th St. cor 3rd Ave., Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Fei Xu Chinese	Junior Employee - Chinese
CEMICRAT TECHNOLOGY (SHENZHEN) PHILIPPINES, INC. Blk. 6 5th Floor, N Square Building, McKinley Hill, Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Haichuan Sukkan Indian	Team Leader
LONGKONG SCRAP RECYCLING MATERIALS CORP. 6503 Bayani Road, Bayani, Fabrication Dist., Bayani, Intramuros City	Rongwei Cai Chinese	Manager
LONGKONG SCRAP RECYCLING MATERIALS CORP. 6503 Bayani Road, Bayani, Intramuros City	Weiqiang Lin Chinese	Technician
CONVERGYS PHILIPPINES SERVICES CORPORATION 12th and 13th Flrs. BDO, Corporate Ctr. Bldg., 3116 Ayala Ave., cor. Rufino St., Makati City	Patricia Reynaldo Mochtar	Manager, Operations
PRAGMA RESOURCES LIMITED INC. Unit 2-F F Bldg., No. 22 Dela Rosa cor. Metropolitan St., Bel-Air, Makati	Liyan Sai Chinese	Executive Assistant
INTELLENT SERVICES CORPORATION 14/F PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Ave. cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City	Tai Van Nguyen Vietnamese	Customer Service Officer
FUJITSU TEN SOLUTIONS PHILIPPINES, INC. 28/F Fort Legend Tower, 3rd Ave. cor. 31st St., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Hiroshi Fujii Japanese	Assistant Department Manager - Hardware Design Department
TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES (PHILIPPINES) INC. 10/F Philamlife Annex Tower, Ortigas Ave. cor. 4th St., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Prasad Shidgaokar Indian	IT Analyst
FREIGHT FIRST ZONE SERVICE (LIMITED), INC. 3/F King's Court II Bldg., 2129 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City	Yaoshiang Ni Chinese	Customer Service Representative - Mandarin
FREIGHT FIRST ZONE SERVICE (LIMITED), INC. 3/F King's Court II Bldg., 2129 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City	Ying Liu Chinese	Customer Service Representative - Mandarin
FREIGHT FIRST ZONE SERVICE (LIMITED), INC. 3/F King's Court II Bldg., 2129 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City	Lihi Lai Chinese	Customer Service Representative - Mandarin

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
EDVEN BIOENG GROUP CORPORATION 10/F Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Bel Air Village, Makati City	Dongsheng Wang Chinese	Consultant
EDVEN BIOENG GROUP CORPORATION 10/F Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Bel Air Village, Makati City	Ye Tao Chinese	Network Supervisor
EDVEN BIOENG GROUP CORPORATION 10/F Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Bel Air Village, Makati City	Jian Yang Chinese	Trading Officer
EDVEN BIOENG GROUP CORPORATION 10/F Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Bel Air Village, Makati City	Siyang Wang Kan Korean	General Manager
MNC PHIL. CONST. INC. Unit 803 F Park Trade Centre, 1780 Investment Road, Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Jonghyun Jeong Korean	Design Consultant
MNC PHIL. CONST. INC. Unit 803 F Park Trade Centre, 1780 Investment Road, Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Sanyong Choi Korean	Construction Manager
MNC PHIL. CONST. INC. Unit 803 F Park Trade Centre, 1780 Investment Road, Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Yong Ho Seo Korean	General Manager
MNC PHIL. CONST. INC. Unit 803 F Park Trade Centre, 1780 Investment Road, Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Sunghun Lee Korean	Project Manager
MNC PHIL. CONST. INC. Unit 803 F Park Trade Centre, 1780 Investment Road, Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Seungyo Kim Korean	Design Manager
CITIBANK, N.A. 8741 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Wenda Wardoyo Indonesian	Credit Underwriter Head
JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A. - PHILIPPINE GLOBAL SERVICES CENTER 1st Philippine Bldg., 31st St., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Chaiyuth Ruy India	Associate
CONVERGYS PHILIPPINES SERVICES CORP. Convergys One Bldg., 6796 Ayala Ave., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Kunal Bhandari German	Director, Program Management
MIDDLE FRONT ZONE SERVICE (IMPEX), INC. 3/F King's Court II Bldg., 2129 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City	Wua Huang Chinese	Customer Service Representative - Mandarin
TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES (PHILIPPINES) INC. 10/F Philamlife Annex Tower, Ortigas Ave. cor. 4th St., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Mahesh Parkar Indian	IT Analyst
MIDDLE FRONT ZONE SERVICE (IMPEX), INC. 3/F King's Court II Bldg., 2129 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City	Jingxia Huang Chinese	Customer Service Representative - Mandarin
HEAT-ADVANCED PHILIPPINES, INC. 17/F Robinsons Equitable Tower, Madrigal Business Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Jungki Kwak Korean	Vice President (VP)
SANDS CHINA TECHNOLOGY PHILS. INC. 5/F Bayu Tower Bldg., Nos. 2-8 Paterno Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City	Hendrik Anton Hoe Australian	Lending Solutions Support Lead Quality Manager
THE MSSP INC. Suite 22C Level 22 Tower One, Ayala Triangle, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Anastasia Cojuanco Canlas	UX Designer

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
NUMOTECH PHILIPPINES, INC. Suite 4 (PART) Bldg., Autolink Commerce Ave., Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Colin Ross Christie American	President
JGI TECHNICS CORPORATION Unit 607 Chartered Bank Condominium, Old Susana Blvd. cor. Araneta Road, Paranaque City	Hiromi Maeda Japanese	General Manager
HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES PHILIPPINES, INC. 10/F PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave. cor. Herrera St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Yi Lu Chinese	Project Manager
HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES PHILIPPINES, INC. 10/F PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave. cor. Herrera St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Lilei Lu Chinese	Consultant
CARLSON CAPITAL LIMITED 5/F PBCom Tower 6795 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Dave Deuff Indonesian	Software Interface Language Localizer Senior Officer
AQUATAR WATER TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS, INC. G/F Queen Square Bldg. Quirino Avenue, Parañaque City	Yuehui Wang Chinese	Consultant
AQUATAR WATER TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS, INC. G/F Queen Square Bldg. Quirino Avenue, Parañaque City	Lingfeng Liu Chinese	Sales Manager
LUCKY SHILLIN ENTERPRISES, INC. Waterfront Plaza, Palang Lupa, Lipa, Pilipinas City	Hardi Singh Indian	Supervisor
LUCKY SHILLIN ENTERPRISES, INC. Waterfront Plaza, Palang Lupa, Lipa, Pilipinas City	Fakhrudin Kazi Indian	Operations Manager
AQUATAR WATER TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS, INC. G/F Queen Square Bldg. Quirino Avenue, Parañaque City	Binghuan Hong Chinese	Consultant
AQUATAR WATER TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS, INC. G/F Queen Square Bldg. Quirino Avenue, Parañaque City	Changlin Lin Chinese	Consultant
TRIPLE CONSULTANCIES, INC. G/F Estudiante II, Tu Yeon, Old Susana Blvd., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Victor Adriano Mau Ribeiro Vieira Portuguese	General Manager
TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES (PHILIPPINES) INC. 10/F Philamlife Annex Tower, 2nd Ave. cor. 30th St., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Manish Kumar Tripathi Indian	Assistant Consultant
TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES (PHILIPPINES) INC. 10/F Philamlife Annex Tower, 2nd Ave. cor. 30th St., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Abhijeetkar Ramchandra Pawar Indian	Assistant Consultant
TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES (PHILIPPINES) INC. 10/F Philamlife Annex Tower, 2nd Ave. cor. 30th St., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Murali Pendlala Indian	Consultant
TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES (PHILIPPINES) INC. 10/F Philamlife Annex Tower, 2nd Ave. cor. 30th St., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Pankaj Sehgal Indian	IT Analyst

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned applications, please communicate with the Regional Director.

To avail of this and other advisories and employment-related services, visit the nearest Public Employment Service Office (PESO) or log on at www.dole.gov.ph.

For: ATTY. ALEXIS M. MACARAIG, CESO III
Regional Director

PR No. B-2012

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Philippine Carabao Center (National Headquarters)
Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija
Tel. No. (044) 456-0276 to 78 • Fax No. (044) 456-0279
Website: www.pcc.gov.ph • E-mail: pcc@pcc.gov.ph

INVITATION TO BID

The Philippine Carabao Center National Capital Office (PCC), through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites responsible bidders to bid for the following:

Name of Project	(1) Procurement of 1 Unit Multi-Purpose Vehicle (Automatic Transmission) Including Registration and Other Incidental Expenses	(2) Procurement of 1 Unit Motorcycle (Manual Transmission) Including Registration and Other Incidental Expenses	(3) Procurement of Consumable Office Supplies and Materials
Location of the Project	Philippine Carabao Center National Capital Office, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija		
Approved Budget for the Contract	Php 1,100,000.00	Php 200,000.00	Php 2,000,000.00
Source of Funds	GAA FY 2012 (GOP 20%)		
Bidding Activities			
1. Pre-bid Conference	Oct. 22 - Nov. 02, 2012 (8:00 am - 5:00 pm)	Oct. 22 - Nov. 02, 2012 (8:00 am - 5:00 pm)	Oct. 22 - Nov. 02, 2012 (8:00 am - 5:00 pm)
2. Opening of Bids	Nov. 06, 2012 (8:00 am)	Nov. 07, 2012 (8:00 am)	Nov. 08, 2012 (8:00 am)
3. Delivery Period	Nov. 06, 2012 (8:00 am)	Nov. 07, 2012 (8:00 am)	Nov. 08, 2012 (8:00 am)

The bidding documents can be obtained from the BAC Secretariat after payment of non-refundable amount of Two Thousand Pesos (P 2,000.00) for Item No. 1, Five Thousand Pesos (P 5,000.00) for Item No. 2 and Five Hundred Pesos (P 500.00) for Item No. 3.

The Philippine Carabao Center reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any defect therein.

All particulars relative to the Eligibility Statement and Accepting the Security, Performance Security, Payment, Liquidated Damages, Arbitration, Termination and Suspension of Contract shall be in accordance with the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 9184.

Any inquiries, clarifications may be sought the BAC Secretariat at telephone no. 456-0276 to 78 local 107 or Tel. No. (02) 426-0161 to 70 local 4114 or Telefax No. (02) 426-0131 or visit our website at http://www.pcc.gov.ph.

The BAC through the Bids and Awards Committee reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract on the grounds of the discovery of defects in the conduct of procurement or subsequent irregularities, reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, post-qualify bidders, or not award the contract, without incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s), irrespective of any minimum technical requirements, bid security, or financial capacity requirements, or minimize or maximize any component of a bid, when such rejection is in the interest of the procuring entity.

(Sgd.) EDGARDO C. MENDOZA, D.V.M.
Deputy Director for Administration
Head of Procuring Entity

PR No. B-2012

Republic of the Philippines
MUNICIPALITY OF AGONCILLO
Province of Batangas

INVITATION TO BIDDERS
Procurement & Delivery of Tables and Chairs for the New Phase II Evening Preparatory Center/School Building, Poblacion, Agoncillo

The AGONCILLO LGU, thru its duly constituted Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), intends to apply the amount of P 1,000,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Procurement & Delivery of Tables and Chairs for the New Phase II Evening Preparatory Center/School Building, Poblacion, Agoncillo. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

The AGONCILLO LGU of Agoncillo now invites bids for the Procurement & Delivery of Tables and Chairs for the New Phase II Evening Preparatory Center/School Building, Poblacion, Agoncillo. Completion of the Delivery is required within Sixty (60) calendar days. Bidders should have completed within five (5) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids a contract similar to the Project. The bidder shall submit a statement to the effect, signed by the bidder's authorized representative.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184.

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from BAC SECRETARIAT of AGONCILLO and purchase the Bidding Documents at the address given below during 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be acquired by interested bidders from the date of publication of this Invitation to Bid upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of P 5,000.00.

BAC Activities	Schedule
Issuance of Bidding Documents	October 30 - November 19, 2012
Pre-Bid Conference	November 7, 2012, 9:00 AM at the Meeting Hall, 2nd Floor, Municipal Bldg.
Submission / Receipt of Bids	November 19, 2012, 9:00 AM at the Executive Bldg.

The BAC reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to waive any defect in the bidding process, without incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:
BAC Secretariat
Municipal Hall
Agoncillo, Batangas
Telefax No. (043) 702-2015

(Sgd.) RHOEL ANDRADE G. GARCIA
BAC Chairman

LPRB – October 30, 2012

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Pambansang Kooperatibo ng Pataba
(NATIONAL INSULATION COOPERATIVE)
Regional Office No. 4

Tel. No. (049) 536-0715 to 17
Fax No. (049) 536-0718

INVITATION TO BID

The Bids Regional Review Office through Atty. Ariel R. Bello, IV, CESO III intends to apply the sum of Two Million Pesos (P2,000,000.00) Budget for the Purchase/Delivery/Hauling/Unloading of Urea, Complete Fertilizer, Ammonium Sulphate and Muriate of Potash (MOP) as stated in Section 2 of the ABC that is considered to be reasonable.

The Bids Regional Review Office now invites bids for the Supply and Delivery of sixty or fifty (50) kg. of Ammonium Sulphate/Urea/Complete Fertilizer/Muriate of Potash (MOP). Delivery Period is within Thirty (30) calendar days. Bidders should have completed within the last five (5) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids a contract similar to the Project. The bidder shall submit a statement to the effect, signed by the bidder's authorized representative.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Bidding Secretariat and view the Bidding Documents at the Secretariat Office at the Regional Office, Bel-Aire Subd. Mabini, Batangas City, Batangas during office hours from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders upon presentation of a letter of intent to the proponent unit and payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00). The Bidding Documents may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on October 31, 2012 at 10:00 AM and attendance thereto by all interested parties will be mandatory before bidding documents are sold.

Bids must be submitted to the Regional Review Office, Regional Director's Office on or before 9:00 AM of November 14, 2012. Bids will be opened on the same date at 10:00 AM in the Regional Review Office in the presence of the bidders or their duly authorized representatives who choose to attend. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The Bids Regional Review Office reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders, or to obligate itself to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for such action, in accordance with Section 41 of Republic Act 9184 and its IRR.

(Sgd.) JOSEPH M. LUCILO
Bids Chairman

Noted:
(Sgd.) ROMEO G. APUNGAN JR.
Regional Director

LPRB – Nov. 02, 2012

BUSINESS

Meralco hikes 2012 income projection to ₱16B

By Amy R. Remo

MANILA ELECTRIC Co., the country's biggest power distributor, again raised its net income projection to ₱16 billion, owing to stronger sales and higher distribution charges expected in the second half of the year.

"We're upgrading our core [profit] guidance to ₱16 billion for the entire year. Based on continuing strong sales in October, I think we're trending slightly north of 7 percent. Of course, we don't know how November and December [will] turn out," Meralco chair Manuel V. Pangilinan said in a briefing yesterday.

In the first nine months of the year, Meralco posted an 11-percent growth in its consolidated core net income to ₱12.9 billion from ₱11.7 billion a year ago.

Despite severe weather disturbances during the period, the distribution utility managed to record an 8-percent growth in its sales volume in the first nine months to 24,449 gigawatt-hours from 22,725 gwh recorded during the same period last year.

Consolidated revenues, which consisted largely of electricity sales, increased by 11 percent to ₱211.7 billion as of end-September, due to higher volume of power sold and higher average cost of power sold. The average electricity retail rate for the first nine months of the year stood at ₱9.72 per kilowatt-hour, slightly higher by 70 centavos per kWh from the ₱9.02 per kWh posted a year ago.

Meralco meanwhile reported that the number of its billed customers grew to 5.2 million, reflecting an increase of 150,000 new customer accounts.

"Power consumption continues to be a barometer of the health of the economy. The rise in our energy sales volume reflects a resilient economy supported by stronger domestic consumption and higher government infrastructure spending," Pangilinan explained.

"We continue to be optimistic about our business, having seen the better-than-expected results and are committed to implement capital expenditures, estimated to be in excess of ₱11 billion to further improve our network reliability. Our network, customer service and support facilities are ready for the expected increase in customer count and load growth as the GDP continues to grow in the continued years of 5-percent-plus," he added.

Reyes added that Meralco continues to invest heavily in its infrastructure, people, process, information technology and innovation to drive higher levels of customer fulfillment and efficiency, growth and profitability.

The distribution utility also expected that its usual cash and cash equivalents stood at ₱21.8 billion as of Sept. 30 this year, while free cash flow amounted to ₱28.5 billion. Consolidated debt balance in the first three quarters of the year meanwhile amounted to ₱24.9 billion.

Power distributor expects stronger sales, higher charges in 2nd half

Meralco unit out to boost capacity in Luzon

MERALCO PowerGen Corp., the power generation arm of Manila Electric Co., is looking to build power facilities that can generate 2,700 megawatts in additional capacity for the Luzon grid in five years' time.

In a briefing yesterday, Meralco president and CEO Oscar S. Reyes noted that the proposed portfolio would consist of two 600-MW coal-fired power plants expected to cost roughly $2.6 billion. Also, combined and liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities are expected to generate a total of 1,500 MW.

Reyes declined to cite specific investment requirements for the LNG facilities, which may be put in Batangas or Quezon, depending on the outcome of feasibility studies. The cost of the LNG power plant itself will be lower than the coal plant, he added.

"Our strategic intent is to build new highly fuel-efficient, environmentally sound and reliable combined-cycle baseload and mid-merit power plants of up to 2,700 MW over the next five years, mindful of the Department of Energy supply and demand outlook as well as the company's load growth target areas to spur national development," Reyes said. "We likewise continue to look for opportunities in the grids outside Luzon and potentially even outside the Philippines, to enhance our profitability and showcase the technical competency of our engineers, technical and customer service people."

The first 600-MW coal facility is being put up at the Subic Bay Freeport in partnership with Alsons Power Corp. and Taiwan Cogeneration, through a vehicle company called Redondo Peninsula Energy (RP Energy).

The Subic facility is Meralco's initial venture in its re-entry to the power generation business. Development activities are also underway in the company's hopes to operate the first 300 MW plant by the first half of 2016.

As for its LNG plans, Meralco earlier revealed that it was eyeing Batangas as a possible location because of its proximity to the Department of Energy's $2.1-billion Batangas-Manila natural gas pipeline, and the Shell Companies in the Philippines' planned $2-billion regasification terminal in Batangas. ▪

Amy R. Remo

In Vietnam, Filipino investors hunt opportunities

HO CHI MINH CITY—Filipino businessmen are being encouraged to dig deep and explore the burgeoning opportunities of investment in Vietnam.

In a recent conference in Ho Chi Minh City, Le Minh Ha, vice chair of the city's People's Committee, said that trade and investment between Vietnam and the Philippines have developed significantly in various fields.

The trade and investment conference, organized by the Ho Chi Minh City chapter of the Philippine Business Group Vietnam, has the theme "Vietnam: Investment Destination."

The event was attended by a number of investors from the Philippines and elsewhere.

Le Minh Ha told the delegates that he hoped the conference would spur Vietnamese and Filipino businessmen to forge joint ventures deals.

Municipal units had been committed to create the best possible conditions for Filipino businesses to prosper and would support them in their trade and investment activities, Ha added.

According to the Philippines' ambassador to Vietnam, Ariel Ibanez, the Philippines is the 27th biggest overseas investor in Vietnam, with investments totaling about US$300 million. In Ho Chi Minh City alone, there are 26 projects granted by Filipino businesses with a total capital of $46 million.

"Although two-way trade has risen significantly, there is still room for further cooperation. The Philippines also encourages Vietnamese businesses to take part in the country's investment and agricultural sectors," Ha said.

During the conference, representatives from various sectors in Vietnam and the Philippines gave presentations on the investment environments in their respective countries. Hermann Arnoy/Asia News Network

NSCB: Indicators point to Q4 slowdown

By Ria T. Dichaves

THE NATIONAL Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) yesterday reported that economic indicators hinted at a possible downdown in economic growth by yearend.

The composite leading economic indicator (LEI) for the fourth quarter of 2012 dimped to 8.014 from a revised figure of 0.131 in the third quarter, the NSCB said.

"This signifies a possible deceleration in the country's economic performance [in the fourth quarter]," the NSCB said.

LEI is a mix of indicators experts use to chart short-term economic forecasting.

But the mix of indicators should be taken with a grain of salt, NSCB experts cautioned.

After all, they added, recent economic growth seems to have defied planners' expectations.

The NSCB reported that of the 11 indicators comprising the composite LEI, only four showed positive outlook for the fourth quarter of 2012. The positive contributors were the terms of trade index, consumer price index, foreign exchange rate and stock price index.

The combined share of positive contributors accounted for 13.4 percent of total contributions, which the NSCB said decreased from 27.8 percent in the third quarter of 2012.

The statistics agency also identified the negative contributors: visitor arrivals, hotel occupancy rate, wholesale price index, number of new businesses, electric energy consumption, money supply and total merchandise imports.

The negative contributors accounted for 86.6 percent of total contribution.

Businesses should study and address specific factors such as oil prices and treat the LEI as a predictor of general economic conditions, Cid L. Terosa of the University of Asia and the Pacific said in a text message.

"Industries should give more emphasis on specific variables that affect their operations, such as interest rates, oil and power costs, exchange rates, and the like," Terosa said.

Benjamin E. Diokno of the UP School of Economics said that the predictive accuracy of the LEI appeared "limited" in recent years, particularly in times of expansion.

In 2001, 2002, 2003, and late in 2008, the LEI came out negative, which indicated that the economy was on or below its growth potential.

But there were years when the LEI put quarter supposed economic contractions, like annual growth in gross domestic product (GDP) proved to be the opposite.

In 2004, the LEI was negative for four quarters (0.126, 0.070, -0.026 and -0.009) yet the economy grew robustly at 6.7 percent.

In 2008, the LEI was also negative for four quarters (-0.273, -0.130, -0.076 and -0.072), yet the country's GDP surged by 7.6 percent.

KL airline eyes Mindanao flights after peace deal

By Ruben Sario

KUALA LUMPUR—The Mindanao peace agreement that Malaysia helped to broker is set to boost travel to the region as Malaysia Airlines subsidiary MASwings aims to rise a piece of the pie.

MASwings, a regional airline operating in East Malaysia, is looking at flying to southern Philippine destinations following the signing of the peace agreement between the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

The airline is awaiting approval from the transport ministry to launch flights between Kota Kinabalu and Puerto Princesa in Palawan, which will be the carrier's first destination to the Philippines, MASwings chief commercial officer Shariq Ahmad told reporters after unveiling MASwings' special promotional fares to mark its 18th anniversary.

MASwings' latest promotion includes reduced air fares amounting to 50 ringgit (US$16.26) for travel between Sandakan and Tawau, and 75 ringgit for travel between Kota Kinabalu and Sandakan, Tawau, Labuan Town or Miri, Ahmad said.

The fares include airport and fuel surcharges and can be purchased via MASwings' website, maswings.com.my. File/Star/Asia News Network

Clark gets 1 million passengers in 10 months

By Xinette Ovejas
Inquirer General Luzon

CLARK FREEPORT—The Clark International Airport (CIA) marked a milestone last Wednesday when it served its one millionth passenger in just 10 months.

Edelmiro Navarro, 28, was identified as the airport's one millionth passenger and received a free roundtrip ticket to Singapore on Philippines' Air Asia, said Victor Jose Luciano, president and chief executive officer of the Clark International Airport Corp.

Navarro, a resident of San Jose del Monte City in Bulacan, also received a free overnight stay at Pancake Hotel in Pansy City and Hobidean Inn here and would be exempted from paying the terminal fee at CIA for a year.

Navarro, who is married to an Australian, arrived from Hong Kong via an Airbus flight that arrived at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday.

"The rapid increase in the departure of international and domestic travelers through the CIA, airport authorities now expect to serve five million passengers by November 2015, Luciano said.

He said serving a million passengers in less than 10 months is "one of the signs of very bright prospects not only for the CIA but for the market it serves in central and northern Luzon as link to international markets as well as spur domestic activity."

The year 2011 closed with 787,189 passengers, he said, estimating that Clark would serve 1.6 million travelers by end of 2012.

The government rehabilitated the CIA after the United States Air Force in 1991 left the 2,300-hectare facility now known as the Clark Freeport.

Power Situation Outlook for Tuesday, 30 October 2012

	Luzon	Visayas	Mindanao
Available Capacity (MW)	8,890	1,716	910
Estimated Peak Demand (MW)	6,990	1,428	1,120
Reserve Deficiency (MW)	1,100	308	-334

BPI Family Auto Loan Extends FREE Insurance Promo until December

BPI Family Auto Loan extends its FREE insurance with Acts of Nature coverage promo until December 31, 2012 as the slimmer-than-projected new car buyers continues.

After the devastating floods in Thailand and earthquake in Japan disrupted the car supply chains that continued to affect the auto industry until most of the first half of this year, car sales has steadily recovered to register improved growth levels. The latest figure from the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines, Inc. (CAMPI) shows that auto sales will continue to rise this year, predicting a 12% increase from last year.

A pioneering promo by BPI Family Auto since the 2012, the FREE insurance promo aims to protect newly-purchased cars from the adverse effects of natural calamities as well as to help clients minimize upfront expenses related to the car purchase which includes payment of premium for a comprehensive insurance. The usual cost of a car insurance that includes Acts of Nature coverage remains expensive at about 3% of the market value of the car. This offer of BPI Family Auto Loan proves to be very relevant as car owners remain exposed to natural risks that have besieged the country like the floods brought by Typhoon Ondoy years ago and the Habagat rains last August.

"As the auto industry continues to recover and finish the year strong, BPI Family Auto Loan remains committed to provide prospective car buyers ease of owning their cars through affordable financing, convenient processes and highly-relevant and cost-saving perks," shared Mr. David Sarmiento, Jr., SVP and Head of Auto Loan Division. "We have been offering the FREE insurance promo for almost a year now to further help more Filipinos achieve one of the basic dreams of a family which is owning a car at very affordable means."

To inquire and to apply for an auto loan and learn more about the promo extension, please log on to bpifamily.com, visit any of BPI/BPI Family Savings Bank branches nationwide or call (02) 8456177.

LIFESTYLE Wellness

Like Thelma Sioson San Juan

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The best time to exercise

Studies show that morning exercisers can sustain the exercise habit on a long-term basis

By Mitch Felipe Mendoza
Contributor

WHEN'S THE best time to exercise, so you lose weight and improve performance? Even if studies have already determined the best time to exercise (morning), it is still important to consider the effects of timing on overall health, moods, fitness/weight-control goals and daily schedule, so you can sustain your physical activity.

Sleep and exercise performance

Exercising in the morning can help you burn more calories during, after and throughout the day, but if you lack sleep, it might just add more stress and even stimulate your appetite.

Always keep in mind that rest is a major component of physical wellness. The right quality and amount of sleep should be prioritized so you can maximize your workout, improve strength and endurance, and build more muscles.

THE BEST (2)

WORKING out in the morning can make you a more confident exerciser

Best seat in the house

Chair Massage offers on-the-spot relaxation and stress relief from the daily grind

By Entrenuer Policarpio
Correspondent

CONTRARY TO POPULAR belief that going to the mall can leave one drained and physically and financially, a trip to the shopping mecca can actually be a treat where one finds relaxation right in the middle of shopaholics. These days, massage chairs can be found lined up in many corners of shopping malls offering a respite from the maddening crowd.

Chinese roots

Soothing and definitely budget-friendly, these mechanical massage chairs trace their origins to ancient China. More than 5,000 years ago, the Chinese discovered a method of healing through touch points performed while the receptacle is seated. This discovery spread throughout the Eastern world, particularly in Japan and India, where some of their traditional massage techniques included a form of seated massage as part of the treatment.

In the Western world, Chair Massage was further developed to include different salons where the ritual of relaxation, aroma and trigger point therapy were incorporated in the treatments. As years passed by and the needs of people evolved, training programs were developed and a protocol was eventually established which allows the service to be offered to everyone, regardless of physical restrictions.

Today Chair Massage has undergone a lot of innovations but the primary basic remains the same. Just like in ancient practice, Chair Massage targets the head, neck, shoulders, back, arms and hands.

On-the-spot relief

Among the noticeable benefits one can get from a soothing Chair Massage include a boost in energy and alertness, improvement in circulation, reduction of muscle tension and pain, and prevention of repetitive-stress injuries. Best of all, it offers on-the-spot relaxation suited for people on the go who have little or no time to go to a spa but yearn to relieve stress from the daily grind.

Recipients of the massage sit comfortably in an ergonomically designed portable chair. The love seats (in a cradle, looking down to mind the floor), while the arms are placed in their own support cradles.

The treatment typically lasts from 15 to 15 minutes without using any massage oil, and clients don't need to take off their clothes. The massage therapist then uses a shiatsu technique using forceful massage moves like kneading and compression. Massage recipients may request for their preferred pressure.

Convenience

The portability of the massage chair and convenience it offers to clients make Chair Massage extremely popular in the workplace, malls and wellness events and other high-stress locations. Reports are also a common place where Chair Massage is readily available, which is an ideal treatment after a long flight or in preparation for a long journey ahead.

Big companies also provide this treatment as a special treat to employees during their yearend and ninety employees. Some companies pay for the entire cost while others split it with their employees. It is a great way to ease muscle tension before it turns into a full-blown pain.

Three days, Chair Massage has become even more accessible with the advent of mechanical massage chairs found in shopping malls. For just a few pesos, one can avail of a soothing massage even without the aid of a therapist. The self-pampering can be a quick five minutes or as massive as 30 minutes depending on one's available time or loose change to spare.

PARTNERS for Life Lab participants and Ambercare team. RJ Ledesma, Dr. Alex Pineda, Carlo Mendoza, Erik Ruiz, Harvey Ong, Vince Flores, Samuel Mumay-Mendoza, Angela Pablo, Vanessa Ledesma, Patricia Hizon, Roberta Sedico, Mary Lim — PATRICIA and Vince Hizon

Men are more likely to get osteoporosis than women

By Irene C. Pena

One out of every five Filipino men will most likely suffer a bone fracture by age 50, studies show—which is why they need to drink more milk

SOME ALARMING facts about osteoporosis is does not have any symptoms, there is no cure and it does not exclusively affect women. Adult Filipinos men, in particular, are susceptible to the disease by age 50.

These conclusions were recently presented by Ambercare milk brand manager Erik Ruiz in the "Pinilunan ko Life" discussion at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. The data came from bone scans conducted on over 250,000 Filipino men from the year 2000 to July this year.

Based on the results, the Ambercare found out that 43 percent of men ages 26-85 are "at risk" for osteoporosis. That means one out of five Filipino men over the age of 50 will likely suffer from a bone fracture due to poor bone health. These fractures usually occur on the wrist, spine and hip.

Ambercare has been conducting free bone scans for the past years in malls, groceries and wet markets. This quick procedure is done by placing a bot via a machine with small ballbeam chair in front and lightly scans the body. It is zero to minimum, and results can be immediately seen.

One is then classified as high, medium or low risk. Ambercare brand manager Ruiderva Nicole Endino clarified that the bone scan does not diagnose osteoporosis, but determines if you are likely to have it.

Dr. Alex Pineda, Osteoporosis Society of the Philippines Foundation Inc. secretary general, quoted the World Health Organization definition of osteoporosis as a "skeletal disease characterized by low bone mass and microarchitectural deterioration of bone tissue."

He emphasized that, while osteoporosis is a "silent disease" with no known cure, it could be prevented—and it's best to take precaution early.

"Osteoporosis is determined by factors such as genetic predisposition, hormonal changes, eating habits, exercising, lifting, going to the gym, walking the dogs, falling."

RJ and Vanessa, being full-time multitaskers, define their lifestyle as "99 percent on-the-go." RJ said he keeps "eight different jobs" (you'd count them all, no less, basic, among others) while Vanessa admitted to often juggling seven of tasks since she was single.

The regression couple practices yoga and manages weekend markets that specialize in organic food.

"Being healthy is a win-win-win," said Vanessa, who looked almost months after giving birth to their second child. "How healthy the family is usually depends on the mother."

Patricia said being healthy has always been a part of her maternal commitments. "Being a milk is keeping myself healthy, not necessarily sexy, so that I can spend more time with my family."

The two moms make sure their husbands and kids regularly drink milk to load up on calcium. As Dr. Pineda said, most families are more concerned about heart diseases, stroke and hypertension than bone health should also be given attention.

Two glasses of milk daily are recommended for men and women, added Ambercare marketing director Harvey Ong. Ambercare comes in powder variant in chocolate and vanilla flavors, and is made to drink with just water. It has vitamin D that promotes calcium absorption, and has been proven to reduce bone loss with continued consumption.

For kids, a fun way to drink milk is incorporating it into smoothies and shakes, added Sedico. Robots is also safe to drink while taking calcium supplements.

RJ AND Vanessa Ledesma

Smoke and drink

Dr. Pineda also said men who smoke and drink bone mass faster and should take extra calcium. He reminded that "prevention is a lot cheaper than cure, since surgery costs a lot."

Milk is a major source of calcium, a key mineral that keeps bones healthy, but Filipino men are not top milk drinkers. Making men—and the entire family—drink milk usually depends on the women of the house.

Couples Hizon and Patricia Hizon said RJ and Vanessa Ledesma joined to help them to encourage families to feed an active lifestyle.

Patricia said it's her husband Vince, a basketball player, who initiates outdoor family activities.

"Vince is a biology graduate and has been an athlete since he was young," she said. "We do together what people call 'hyperactive things'—running, which means it's beneficial, as well as ups and ups," Dr. Pineda said. "Women produce estrogen which serves as a protecting factor against bone loss, so males are more predisposed to suffer from osteoporosis."

What are the benefits of astral projection?

(Part 2)

THE FOLLOWING ARE addressed questions sent in by Dr. La Sallienne, dean Emma Mae Alcala about astral projection for their school paper "Rachild."

Q: How often can one go into astral projection?

A: It varies. To most people it may happen consciously only once. For others, more often. Sometimes, one may go into astral projection in phases of strong energy or in movie or packed places. Others can do astral projection every day or every evening. I have met at least two persons women, who go into astral projection at will and travel wherever they want to.

Q: Can this ability be avoided or removed?

A: Since this is not an ability but a natural phenomenon, one cannot really take it away. However, it can be controlled or managed to that by correct practice. One should not attempt astral projection when one is experiencing negative emotions like anger, hatred, jealousy or lust, because he or she may go into the lower astral plane and meet negative astral beings.

Remember God on the mental and spiritual planes, "like attracts like." On the physical plane, it is the opposite. The law of magnetism states that, "like poles repel each other, opposite poles attract each other."

Spontaneous

Q: Do you also have the ability to go into astral projection?

A: The answer to your question is, yes. I have experienced OOBE many times, beginning in 1975, but most of my astral projections were spontaneous and not deliberate. I happened in many various circumstances in many different places, including foreign countries.

My first spontaneous but conscious astral projection happened on 1976 during an exercise on floating. The energy of people during a seminar conducted by two visiting Amerasian clairvoyants. I was seated in a chair surrounded by about 15 other participants. While they were passing their hands around me, I suddenly went into a knockout state and saw myself on the ceiling looking down at my physical body seated on a chair, seemingly unconscious. I could not move or shout. But I did not panic. In fact, I very enjoyed being out of my body and got a little daring as I was floating inside the auditorium when the time to bring me back by snapping her fingers into my ear.

In the astral world, one can see 360 degrees, hear or know the thoughts of people telepathically and travel anywhere one desires to go.

After this experience in 1975, I have gone into astral projection many times. But I have never experienced something out of the norm where I was. So I don't have any experiences of scientific astral travel to different planes. I have also not met any astral being or spirit, except since many years ago when I was not yet really ready for such an experience. However, I never met that being or entity again, to my disappointment.

Q: What are the goal or kind of lessons you have experienced during astral projection?

A: I can't think of any bad experience while I was in the astral plane. In fact, it was always a pleasant and enjoyable experience. The only "bad" experience I had was feeling tired after my waking up, maybe because I had travelled far without losing conscious of it. As I said, my conscious OOBE experiences have been confined to the room where it happened, but unconsciously it is possible that I had traveled in distant places.

One occult practitioner, for example, reported going to Shirley Temple star space exploration of the place and described it very accurately where a space vehicle finally landed on the Red Planet.

Q: What is your perspective on this ability as a parapsychologist?

A: Astral projection should not be feared. It happens naturally to most people. But usually they don't want to discuss such experiences because of fear they may be considered insane or merely hallucinating. In fact, this is the view of most scientists. They say that the sensation of being out of one's body is an illusion and is caused by lack of oxygen to the brain. If one has never really experienced astral projection, he is bound to believe such a "scientific" explanation. I don't.

NOTE:

The next Basic ESP and Intuition development seminar will be on Nov. 10-11, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., which the Sanctuary, Karma and Reincarnation seminar is on Nov. 17, 1-7 p.m. at the 306 Prince Plaza 1, Legaspi St., Greenhills. Mitchell Ello Ate seminar details and reservations, call 8307245, 0928-5015962 or 632 8-8307245. Inquiries@sanctuary.com.ph or visit www.thesanctuary.com.

The best time to exercise

From page C2

Whenever I look sleep, I don't push myself to work out just to comply with my exercise schedule. Exercising with less than six hours of sleep can be just as much physical and mental stress. Imagine the effects of sleeping for only four hours just to catch the morning run at 6 a.m. Aside from lack of energy, lack of sleep will affect your performances at work and at home.

If you want to work out early, make it a point to sleep on time. If the morning run is scheduled at 5 a.m., you should be in bed at around 8-9 p.m. to get seven to eight hours of sleep. This requires discipline, time management and proper lifestyle planning.

If you cannot get enough sleep because of your schedule, consider exercising in the afternoon or at night, as long as you still find it easy to sleep on time, because some people find it hard to sleep after an evening workout.

If you are trying to control your weight and are already manage your sleep, then working out in the morning can help maintain your weight loss, because studies show that morning exercisers can maintain the exercise habit on a long-term basis.

Another question that may arise for morning exercisers is the timing of meals. A study published last year in the International Journal of Sport Nutrition and Exercise Metabolism showed that eating a light breakfast before a morning workout can help one burn more calories even 11-24 hours after the actual workout, as compared to not eating anything at all before a workout.

Therefore, it is still better to eat something light like bread and energy bars 30 minutes to one hour before the workout to maximize the calorie burn.

A recent study published online in the October 2012 issue of Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise shows that a 45- minute moderate- to high-intensity workout in the morning can decrease one's motivation for food. The right amount of exercise in the morning can be a good appetite regulator, as long as you eat on time and don't overdo the exercise.

More calorie burn and more control over food

If you are trying to control your weight and are already manage your sleep, then working out in the morning can help maintain your weight loss, because studies show that morning exercisers can maintain the exercise habit on a long-term basis.

Mood improvement and stress management

In choosing the best time for exercise, you should also consider when exercising can positively influence your moods. It is true that exercising in the morning can energize you the rest of the day but if exercising in the morning will stress you out because of the traffic on the way to work, then consider an afternoon workout.

If joining an exercise dance class can help you forget problems at work, consider working out after work.

The bottom line is to look at the important factors that will help in make exercise a lifestyle. Learning your best exercise time is an ongoing process, because your schedule will always vary. You should learn to be flexible to adjust to different situations, as you can find time to learn cadence while always considering your health, recovery, energy level, lifestyle, fitness goals and overall mission.

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Pay close attention.
Design is deep in the details.
Don't just look, but see.
Don't just hear, but listen.
Design lies in recognizing the innate perfection
That is already there,
Waiting to be discovered.
Asking to be pursued.
This is the secret of creating a superior product.
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Ben Chan
Chairman and Executive Creative Director
Bench
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LIFESTYLE Wellness

CORE barre trainers Jessa Jocsan and Camille Joson show how to be graceful and mindful while moving

Core Barre can help anybody develop a dancer's agile and toned body—even men and pregnant women

Not for dancers only

By Margo C. Enriquez
Contributor

TO ACQUIRE a dancer's agile and toned body, growing numbers have signed up for ballet-based workouts that promise elegant deportment, leaner thighs, a taut bottom and improved flexibility. However, some non-dancing clients who enrolled in these classes have complained about back and knee pains.

Addressing these safety issues, Core Barre was developed to provide the benefits of ballet-based movements without the strain and to move effortlessly. Hence, its tagline "The Art of Smart Movement."

"Before I turned to Core Barre, I thought it would be ballistic. It's really about fitness. There are push-ups and there are crunches," said Camille Joson, master trainer for Core Barre at Optima Studio. She was a baby ballerina when she joined Ballet Philippines, moved up to principal dancer, then landed second place in the Paris International Dance Competition. She has also worked with choreographer Agnes Locsin.

Still, Joson's insistence to share her experience as a movement specialist for studio-type exercises.

Different pace, goals

Although Core Barre has similarities with other "ballet-based" workouts, the pacing and the goals are different. "The points-to-ables you to hold up not only your working muscles, but the entire body as well," Joson said.

Just as in ballet, where the body is trained to lengthen the muscles from the joints to defy the pull of gravity, Core Barre gives you a workout that will help you combat the slouch and the flab without all the clothing.

The instructors are required to have extensive dance backgrounds to be able to demonstrate correct alignment and placement. They are trained to spot common mistakes such as putting too much load on the knees, or if participants are tilting their pelvis, which can lead to lower back pain.

The 55-minute class starts with the usual warm-up to get the heart pumping and to wake up the big muscle groups.

This is followed by resistance exercises for the arms and upper body, using light dumbbells, resting balls or elastic bands.

The barre exercises target the legs and butt, particularly the little muscles which control the bigger muscles that make us move. They become challenging with the ballet squats (plié), stretching of legs, execution of weights, pulses of low arabesques and attitude (balancing with a gracefully bent leg), and balances on one leg.

Although these movements require the ballet turnout (the outward rotation from the hips and legs), it's good for the non-dancer as well. The correct turnout develops stability with fewer muscles involved.

Joson explained that the muscles from the pelvis, lower spine and abdomen are interdependent. When all these body parts work in synergy, there is less effort from the muscles but more freedom and enjoyment of moving.

How to get the dancer's body? Aside from learning to "pull up," clients are made to strengthen their inner thighs, calves, and the muscles surrounding the knees to acquire a dancer's leg.

Although the ballet exercises cultivate refinement, instructor-trainer Arnold Joson stresses that there are no dirty sins and hands for the guys.

The last part of the workout consists of exercises on the floor, focusing on athletic conditioning. "There are exercises where you contract the muscles and hold the position to build strength like maintaining the

next set

TURNING up the triceps with resting balls while keeping the knees and muscles aligned

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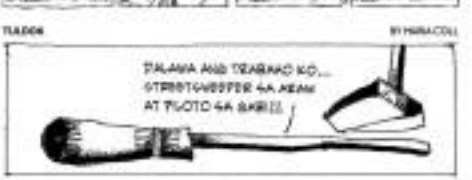


HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS CRANT

THIS WEEK TODAY You are natural leaders, and you have the ability to motivate others. Sometimes, you have trust in instinct's pitch. Put your heart and soul into what you believe in and make changes for your survival. Know how to find help when you need it. Your kind nature is a huge asset in the world. Use it to make a difference in your own world. Something you've been involved with for nine years will finally come to an end in order to make room for something new.

Birthdays of Chaz Bundick, singer-songwriter; Gavin Carter, actress; Charles Kelly, rodeo performer and cowboy.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Although this is a good day for trade, routine decisions. It's an excellent day to think about how to improve your skills and organize your position in everything that is socially based, like relationships, financial matters and shared property.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) It's down with others today. Begin early, get them and friends, and then you'll see what's going on in the relationship. This is an excellent day for love. Make your feelings known.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You're eager to introduce improvements to your job, and the boss likes your initiative. Think about tomorrow's schedule, and line up your options. Make your choices tomorrow.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) This is a wonderfully creative day! You might have an opportunity to bring in new ideas from something you already own. Find it now, because it will

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) It will seem to others as if you are finding an answer to your problem by chance. Actually, you've been working on it for a long time, and you've finally got the right piece of the puzzle in your hand.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) You're extremely considering today — unfortunately, this is a poor day for important decisions or commitments. Nevertheless, you can begin to save money.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Use some serious thought to make sure you're not overlooking a job fulfillment. Ask questions of people you know. You have greater control in your favor than you realize.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Take a realistic look at the money and ask yourself what you can do to improve your appearance. You also might consider how you can improve yourself in relating to others.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) This is a great day for romance and for digging into the subjects you are passionate about. You're fascinating company.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Today's conversations will be powerfully creative today. You might be asked to work with a powerful leader, an advertising, you should be in charge. Nevertheless, postpone important decisions until tomorrow.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Your relationship to someone is extremely insightful today, if somewhat unconventional. You might open doors or lose power. Don't make any commitments or promises today.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Look for ways to reduce your life through better allocation or ordering. Perhaps there's a way to expand your horizons.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Concepts Sudoku

				6			8	7
		8	9	2				3
	3					6		
	8				5			
5	9						1	2
			7				4	
		9					6	
4				3	8	5		
7	6			9				

Difficulty Level ★★

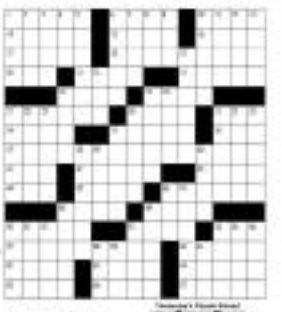
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

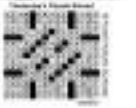
ACROSS

1. Commencement event
4. Curry
8. Mythological ship
12. Ms. Lupino
13. Said article, for short
14. "___ of, as a businessman am"
17. Lilac
18. Tomato
19. Nimbus
21. Part of the suit
22. Operator and others
24. Ice conclusions
25. Static, in
26. Ms. Ryder
28. Voting alliance
31. Peter, in Scotland
32. Ms. Lupino's spinning partner
35. Secure
36. "Go fetcher"
37. Pen in the corral
38. Lake Como, also
41. Bottle bar
42. Weighed in a balloon
43. Uncle Ben's products
44. I'm running
45. Ms. Lupino's
46. Sobriety
48. Bridge
49. Poet's contraction
50. Thin, metallic rattle
51. "Howdy" alike
52. Jane kept afloat by wind
54. Lay public with
55. Scorpion
56. Words non-believers say in unison
62. Cry of woe
63. Eucalyptus, for one
64. Actor Ives noir
65. "Auto Tuning ___"
66. Tiny segments
67. Ms. Lupino's

DOWN

1. Tadpoles and tigers
2. Ms. Lupino's portrayal
3. Sky angle's comic baby
4. Ms. Lupino's prizefighter
5. Check cashier
6. Blunderbusses
7. Ms. Lupino's award
8. Sin ref.
9. Lose sense
10. Ms. Lupino's
11. Chemistry
12. Vendor dollop
13. Study
14. Pitcher's imaginary
15. Restaurants
16. Ms. Lupino's
17. Two over par
18. Rubber-tired wheel
20. Wise heirloom, Tennessean
23. Pillow, with
27. Basketball player
29. Abdomen
30. Mold cavity
31. Apex or main
32. Fiesta mouse
33. Ms. Lupino's
34. Cry in Portugal
35. Shake-down
36. Worries
37. Tree stamps of cancelling
39. Lubricant handful
40. Wood with woven-in wood
41. Wood support
43. Nicotine
44. Ally
47. ___ on become informed
50. Sheep sound
51. In a skillful way
53. Muffins
54. Ignore
57. Monument to, nobility-style
58. Trustees
59. Popular flower
60. Chicken connection
61. Cookie sweet
62. Angst-ridden





Vanity can be a good thing

INSIDE OUT

Cary Quintero

If you sleep early for three days straight, the quality of your skin will improve dramatically

IDENTITY IS A GOOD thing, and looking good has never been easier. Let me walk you down vanity lane, the easy way.

Q: My 48-year-old face and body are dehydrated. Remedy me, please.

Your first step is to look into:

1) Diet. What are you eating and drinking? Are you drinking enough water? You know the rule... 10-12 glasses of water daily. So you drink alcohol? This dries up the skin. Do you include vitamin C-rich foods in your meals, like dark green leafy vegetables, citrus fruits? If it's an emergency plan you are breaking fast, then drink alcohol intake to two glasses daily.

2) Supplements. Are you lacking in nutrients? Increase your vitamin C cap-phenomix to 2,000 mg daily. Add one capsule of cod liver oil. In addition, take the following daily: Multivitamin with minerals C—500 mg twice daily, and vitamin E—200-400 IU.

Note: If you don't want to take cod liver oil, here are the options—Omega 3 fatty acids in flaxseed oil, pumpkin oil, soy oil. These can be added to your salad dressing.

Natural moisture, walnuts, beans.

Quick-fix acids: Sorbet lactitus, alpha hydroxy face makeup, try this scrub.

Mix 2 tbsp sugar (any will do) ½ tsp virgin coconut oil (VCO) ½ tsp extra virgin olive oil

Rub in circular motion on the face. Avoid eye area. Wash with a VCO soap.

Topical application: For the face, put one capsule of vitamin E or A (in oil form). Prick it with a pin. Apply few droplets on the skin, especially the eye area. Rub gently. If you want it to be absorbed faster, place a warm towel on the face for three to five minutes before using the oil. This opens up your pores to receive the oil better.

Body treatment: Warm three tablespoons of VCO in a pan. Allow your bath rub the VCO all over your body. If you don't have vitamin E for the face, the VCO will be just as effective.

3) Exercise. Please sweat it out. It's the only way to cleanse your body from the inside. Perspiration acts quality to detoxify your system. Besides, the more often you perspire, the smoother your skin will become.

4) Sleep. Are you getting enough? The general requirement is six to eight hours nightly. And here's a secret. If you sleep early for three days straight, the quality of your skin will improve dramatically. Be early. I mean 10 p.m.

5) Don't quit possible. Run (at least that 11 p.m. You'll be a change...) Come to challenge yourself.

Q: Even if I brush my teeth thrice a day, I still have bad breath. Help!

I've forgo the flossing. Trapped food between teeth is oft-times the culprit.

Visit your dentist. Have a thorough cleaning and checkup. Take out gum disease.

Do you eat a lot of garlic? While this might be good for the heart, it isn't for breath on the breath. So, every time you eat garlic-rich food, you a small serving of fresh parsley and chew on it. There is no need to swallow it. But if you don't like that's even better, because it can de-odorize your body as well.

Are you fond of sugar? When you eat a lot of sweet things after a meal, it can have a fermenting effect in your stomach. So, go easy on dessert. Perhaps you should make it a habit to take one acidophilus (good bacteria) capsule thrice daily to improve digestion. Add one tablet of chelated zinc after a meal.

There is no intention to alarm you. Did you may want to mix and match.

Those many symptoms ranked above believe in your intention and elaborate inside you. Consult your doctor. There are also many complementary medicines, health centers that can help you with an herbal regimen. Call Nisagit at 413-5518.

Finally, use a toothbrush to remove your breath. Opt for an alcohol-free product.

Q: My greatest fear is to become bald like my father. I am a 30-year-old male executive and men have inadvertently falling hair. Every morning I see 10 strands of hair on my pillow. It's alarming.

Losing hair can truly be frightening, especially when you know that genetically, you are in a disadvantage. But this is not inevitable. Because baldness can be prevented in many. It was all-ous. Here are some measures to take:

Segregate your meal right now. Lifestyle has a direct influence on the state of your hair health. So erase the heightiness you feel at this moment. Change your way of living.

Answer the following:

Do you worry too much over the smallest matters?

Are you eating healthy food?

Is your situation comparable with your scalp? Take out allergies. If your shampoo contains harsh ingredients, change it for a more natural one.

Do you wear a cap or hat often? Studies show that caps tend to constrict blood circulation on the scalp. So, keep your head cap free.

Are you taking enough vitamins and minerals?

I know a woman in her 40s who dreaded the loss of her long thick tresses. Three years ago, her hairy result. Doctors gave her that she only had three to four hours of sleep on average.

One day, she woke up to see a handful of hair on her bed. Her doctor told her to avoid stress, get adequate sleep and embrace a wellness lifestyle. Today, she no longer has falling hair problems. Stress can truly damage you from within and without. Because whatever tainted exists inside of you, it will manifest externally.

Relax.

Massage your stress.

Take out 8 complete tablets daily: 500 mg calcium, 250 mg magnesium, 50 mg zinc.

Have a warm coconut milk scalp rub once a week. Use a cotton ball to apply the milk. Massage gently. Healthy gut = excellent skin.

Aloe vera works wonders for the hair. Get a fresh stalk, peel, remove the yellowish fiber, rub the clear fleshy gel directly on the scalp tightly.

There is a hair and scalp tonic that contains an herbal powerhouse of aloe vera, peppermint, moringa (malunggay) and VCO. Novalan is a Philippine-German formulation and a locally manufactured natural concoction that has been consistently garnering rave reviews and testimonials. Visit Jill in Novalan outlets a few days. Call (02) 57-8150575 or text the new ID no.

Q: Teach me a powerful affirmation.

The most powerful of affirmations are the very same ones that spring from your own heart. Know and believe that you have divinity within you. Acknowledge that truth and tap into its limitless source of inspiration and serenity.

Let me share with you another affirming insight. Declare with me now: "I am an heir of God! And I claim my divine inheritance."

Love and light

ICSA Gonzales, Super Clic, Marea Brezjanu, Grace Mallea, Ariel Arevalo, Sandra Alvarado, Thelma Alvarado, Anel Carmen, Gem Padilla

BIGGA Trikk and her portrait at the "Modeling Pinoy" exhibit, at left, Natasha Bautista and Irish Dog

'Supers' celebrate silver anniversary

THE PROFESSIONAL Models Association of the Philippines (PMAP) celebrates its silver anniversary this year with a grand party at the Marriott Hotel on Nov 1.

"Twenty five years of PMAP: The Grand Reunion," will include a photo exhibit by top photographer Jun de Leon and his team, sons Jim and Miguel. The exhibit at the lobby will feature PMAP's best and internationally recognized models: Sweetie de Leon-Gonzalez, Apples Abaya, Wilma Doesnt, Rose Manongsoy-Tello, Bolidee Parreno, Grayson Cadenas, and others.

The highlight of the night will be a fashion show directed by Jacko Aquino.

Established on Feb. 11, 1987, PMAP's aims were "to uplift, protect and professionalize the modeling industry in the Philippines, and to develop and stabilize national and international awareness, participation, membership and competition in the field of modeling."

Contrary to what some quarters think, the PMAP is not an agency but a cross between an association and a union of models. Despite the many controversial stands it has taken through the years of its existence, PMAP has managed to survive, strongly united in respect by members from those who sought to undermine their rights.

Members who have served as presidents include Bonnie Svarnicer, Jo Abesamis, De Leon Gonzalez, Jess Encarnacion, Abesin, Grace Medina, Sheba Patricia, Mamangkil-Yek to and Ariel Arevalo. The current president is Phoenicia Bautista.

Joining Bautista in the current PMAP board are: vice president Mikaela Lagunzad-Martinez, secretary Mia Apeles, disciplinary officer Raphael Godoy, treasurer Angel Agustin, Ortiana Gutbson (public relations), Sanya Smith (special projects) and Kate Gozali (junior board).

"Twenty five years of PMAP: The Grand Reunion" is presented by Head's Age Miracle in cooperation with Manila Marriott Hotel, Fusions, Makeup Store and Salvadors Studio.

KUKU Kleen, Paulean Quiero, Grace Tapia

Dog lovers walk the talk for World Animal Day

THE 2012 WORLD Animal Day celebration organized by The Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), in cooperation with SM Mall of Asia, was filled with activities for the young and old, for pets and their owners, and even for sports buffs.

The Sit-Legged Walkathon sponsored by Asian Answear kicked off the day-long event at 6 a.m. with over 200 dogs in attendance. PAWS celebrity volunteers Kaeffa, Lotus and Sandy Seth Tan Locke and assisted away with the Fitness Pair award. PAWS shelter dogs Rosie, Pili, Nory Sepia, Chanera and Mimi were also present to officially receive the donation turned over by Jeanette PAWS.

Pet Express treated all the pets to free grooming sessions and vet check-ups while pet lovers continued to "Walk a Spot on Spot" (a giant poplet stitched dog) in support of the pet population control and fundraising efforts for PAWS.

Organizations involved in protecting different types of animals had interactive booths, set up at the SM MOA Music Hall. Senior Dog's Adoption Day gave retired folk almost the advantages of reaching basic obedience and simple tricks to one's dog. PAWS director Dixie Asuncion gave a talk on the basics of good canine manners with a dozen

PET OWNERS and smart dogs at the SM MOA-staged walkathon; at left, Cha Cha and Bangis (owned by Camela Perez), winners of the photo contest's Best Dressed Dog category

senators from celebrity Shanna Acuzena and her dog Party.

But it was Senior Dog's Idols XS Club who made the crowd roar with surprise by debuting a new kind of dog agility exhibition with the use of "human shelters" for birds. Ig humans forming an A-frame, a tunnel, weave poles and other hurdles).

PAWS celebrity volunteer Carla Abellana awarded the top prizes for the Pin-Id Animal Day Art Contest for birds, with Alexandra Sophia Nemeno bagging the top award for her artwork entitled "Love Animals and They Will Love You Back." Artists Ishiro Alejandro and Mi-

kaela Alonzo Jobo is also PAWS' shelter veterinarians were judges for the competition.

SM Kids Fashion also launched "Ba-Bow for PAWS" with aims to help raise funds for the PAWS' Animal Shelter. The event was capped off by the "Dance for the Voiceless" concert, which featured some of the top recording artists of the country.

PAWS's occasion drew and World Animal Day audience under Anna Gibbs's Chariot all the celebrities and actors, does who made the day truly special. "Our shelter animals are grateful for all the support!"

Even kids get arthritis

WHEN YOU hear the word arthritis, you automatically assume that it only affects the elderly. However, children can also develop juvenile rheumatoid arthritis (JRA), or more specifically juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA).

Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis (JRA) is a chronic disease that causes pain, stiffness, swelling, and limitations in the motion and function of the joints in an individual. It is scary still and baffling. Sometimes the joint problems can be accompanied by fever and rash.

Stephanie Zell Wehrgen was 3 years old when he started getting fevers coupled with joint pain and redness. The initial diagnosis was Kawasaki disease, largely seen in children less than 5 years of age.

"He was in a lot of pain," Zell's mother confided. "He could not walk and we watched a joint after joint get hot and very red everywhere. He would cry on from the pain."

Further studies into Zell's condition finally led to the correct diagnosis in 2009. He was diagnosed with systemic JRA and prescribed with anti-inflammatory drugs and steroids.

Zell and his family came across Dr. Christine Bernal, a pediatric rheumatologist at the UST Hospital, by chance in 2011 when their doctor got sick. "I first saw Zell in 2011," Dr. Bernal shared. "His face was endangered from prolonged steroid use and I noticed joint swelling as well as growth stunting. I realized that we needed to change his medicine to control the systemic and joint inflammation brought about by the disease and also to spare him from the side effects of steroids.

Dr. Bernal decided to start Zell on a biologic medicine, methotrexate, after thorough discussions.

He responded well to the treatment and his fevers along with the swelling and the pain in his joints were alleviated as well. After several months of treatment, she was able to get him off steroids and his condition has markedly improved.

"Zell has gotten so much better," his mother said. "He can go to school regularly now without having episodes of the pain and he can do things other children do, and the best of all, he is growing again," she said.

Zell is just one of many children who are diagnosed with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis every year. The cause of JRA is unknown and there are no preventive measures. The most important thing is for parents to be aware of the disease.

"Untreated juvenile arthritis can lead to permanent joint damage, impaired skeletal maturation, and growth stunting," Dr. Bernal shared, "not to mention the physical pain and limited mobility."

Headquartered in Bernal, Switzerland, Roche is a leader in research-focused healthcare with combined strengths in pharmaceuticals and diagnostics.

IN CELEBRATION of Arthritis Month, Dr. Christine Bernal will hold scientific lectures among general pediatricians to share valuable information.

Duncan and trainers JERALD Jocson and Riel Rubio do pulses in an attempt to promote the best.

For cardiovascular workouts, ballet tricks are done on the trampoline while lying on the Reformer.

There's loads on exercise machines training staff for active isolation exercises.

Not for dancers only

Pronpage D1

plank for several seconds," says Jocson. "The plank works out the chest, arms and core muscles."

Core Barre also provides exercises that challenge certain muscle groups simultaneously—for instance, lying on the side while working on the core, the thighs and outer hip.

One reason people get injured during workouts is they overwork the muscles or push themselves too hard. Once they're tired, they eschew their form and other surrounding muscles compensate for the injured muscles.

"In Core Barre, form is not sacrificed," Jocson said.

People who just want to exercise are encouraged to work within their limitations but still keep the correct form. "Given your limitations, you can become strong, improve endurance and learn to move more freely."

Before her training, Jocson had stiffness in her lower and mid-back. In a few weeks, she could gracefully arch her back. At another moment, she retained her back while picking up something from the floor after doing a series of exercises targeting all parts of the abdomen, she felt relief from the pain.

A former dancer, Jocson said the program gave him the confidence to pursue his art. "The program is well-balanced. You get an overall workout, even if you're just focusing on one part of the body. I also feel stronger but graceful. Now it's done to music. I've got my sense of rhythm back."

Although Core Ballet is designed for dancers, anybody can benefit. Guys who go to the gym can gain from the stretching techniques that improve coordination, make their muscles more pliable and increase their range of movement.

The program can also be modified for pregnant women, who tend to exercises to get them for the stress of childbirth.

Core Barre is open to dancers, non-dancers and people who want to take up the instructor's course. Call Optimo Studio at RJBC Plaza at 3333334, 5851404, 0917-8746668, Brew Plant at 8079823, 0917-8746672, Podium at 4655063, 0917-5202307.

Breathe more life into your lifestyle

BREATHING SHOULD come naturally for humans who breathe approximately between 20,000-30,000 times a day. But that's rarely the case these days as more people suffer from breathing-related health conditions, especially asthma and allergies.

Winner Claire Mallorca was gearing for a seven-week solo backpacking trip a few months back when she was hit by a bad cough and running fever.

In her search for options beyond drugs, Claire stumbled upon Buteyko online and took her chance on the "breathing technique proven to relieve asthma, allergies, sleep apnea and other respiratory problems."

"After attending the Buteyko workshops, all the symptoms were gone and just in time for my backpacking trip," she said.

Dysfunctional breathing pattern, specifically over-breathing or hyperventilation, is the root cause of asthma and other respiratory problems, according to Joe Volpen, a senior Australian Buteyko practitioner.

"Buteyko Method is a clinically acknowledged program that brings a person's breathing pattern to normal levels by reducing chronic hyperventilation syndrome or CHVS," Volpen said.

Developed over 50 years ago by Russian respiratory specialist Dr. Konstantin Buteyko, the method retrains the respiratory center and includes relaxation, managed breath holds and natural breathing among other breathing exercises and some lifestyle modifications in such areas as posture, eating and sleeping habits, and exercise.

Through Buteyko, people who suffer from other chronic diseases like emphysema, diabetes, hormonal disorders, lupus, multiple sclerosis, or psychological disturbances such as chronic fatigue syndrome are usually able to resume their normal, productive lives, often within weeks to months even as all.

Learn more about the Buteyko Method at free introductory lectures on Nov. 6, 7 p.m.-9 p.m., and Nov. 11, 5 p.m.-7 p.m., at Living Life 8x8, 5/L, Mega Atrium, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

Volpen will also speak on Nov. 8, 2 p.m.-4 p.m. and 7 p.m.-9 p.m. at St. Peach Community Services, 8A-A Belfast Road, Bahay Toro, Q.C. Holy Trinity Church (compound across from San Antonio Plaza, Makati City.

In Quezon City, a lecture is set on Nov. 18, 4 p.m.-6 p.m. at 9848-8604. Partnership sessions at 9/F C. Salvador St., Trinity Bldg. (left off E. Gonzales, Katipunan Avenue), Loyola Heights.

Call Volpen at (0918) 9256000 or 4917804; e-mail jawsk@gmail.com; see the Buteyko Asia page on Facebook.

ENTERTAINMENT

Edna Boone-G. Velarde

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Gary V.'s dream

ON TWITTER, singer Gary Valenciano was in the mood for a little stream-of-consciousness post: "One day, I hope to interpret dreams. Parts dreams about flying and having the body overdone with me. Oh, well, maybe (it was because) I was under the rain all day." **Rayvel Zier Jhaye Jr.**

HEARD

Celebs recall spooky pranks

IT'S THE witching hour tomorrow! Here are some more "trick and treat" stories from celebs. Don't know what I wouldn't know.

ABIGAIL GUTIERREZ: "Five years ago, my friends and I went to Baliuag Drive. I was wearing a white lady costume. I stood under a tree with a flashlight. It started the gimmicks. They all ran away like crazy!"

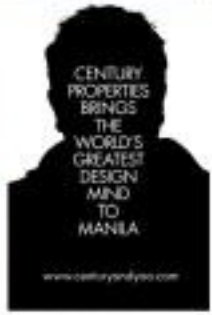
LOU PUR: "When I was a little girl, I had a giant doll. I placed the doll on a chair, turned off the lights and played the soundtrack from 'The Omen.' My mom was bothered because of the loud music and got so frightened by the doll. I couldn't stop laughing."

PAOLO ARGUELLO: "When I was a kid, I used to 'kidnap' my sister's doll. I would set the doll free in exchange for all her candy."

CHINA Cojuangco: "Mikee and I were always a tandem. As kids, we were the tandem because we played with boys' toys. The 'bad' are BC Ferrer and I had a Gremlin. We would race along the hallway of the house. Whenever Mashka would be out, Mikee and I

CHINA Cojuangco

HAYDEN Kho



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IMUS

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ILOCOS NORTE

ANGELES

DUMAGUETE

CEBU

BACOLOD

ILOILO

Celebs recall spooky prank From page E1

would remark Hide looks hotter. We would run the hair of Hide and dress her like Kris, dress Kris like Barbie, remove their heads and interchange them. When Hide saw her reflection, she went insane and cried her head off. It didn't happen just once; we did it regularly."

Abeterman

Enjoyed my one-a-one with Hayden Kho at the press launch of 2D, the newest skin product line of Dr. Zeke Obagi, which he handles as spokesmodel manager.

After all the unsavory blushes has been through, he has not lost his zest for life. He zoomed up to his attendees and face boasted back. Hayde is now a better man.

Excerpts from our interview:

How's your relationship with Dr. Vicki Belo?

We still do business together. The friendship remains. I only have good words for her. There's no reason quite like her.

Do you get affected when Vicki gets linked to other guys?

Of course. But I don't meddle. I always want her to be happy.

What's your message to Katrina Halili after's now a mommy?

I may have her having a baby. I dreamt of having a family too, someday. I wish her, Eric Lawrence and their baby well. It's a new beginning for him.

Are you going to focus on your skincare now?

I have so much on my plate. Here his is just one part of them. I'm doing a movie. I'm learning a lot from my costar. I'm seriously trying my best to act.

What's the biggest lesson you learned after all you've been through?

Never commit the same mistake again and believe in second chances.

NOW SHOWING

IN CINEMAS & 3D NOV. 1 (THURS)

MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4
1: [3D] THE ASWANG CHRONICLES (2D)
2: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
3: A SECRET AFFAIR (2D)
4: THE THREE STOOGES
5: LAWLESS
6: A SECRET AFFAIR
7: ARGO/LOOPER

GREENBELT 1
1: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
2: A SECRET AFFAIR

GREENBELT 3
1: A SECRET AFFAIR
2: A SECRET AFFAIR
3: LAWLESS
4: THE THREE STOOGES
5: LOOPER

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1: A SECRET AFFAIR
2: [3D] THE ASWANG CHRONICLES (2D)
3: THE THREE STOOGES
4: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
5: LOOPER/A SECRET AFFAIR

ARCA SOUTH CEBU
1: A SECRET AFFAIR
2: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
3: LOOPER
4: THE THREE STOOGES

MARQUEE
1: A SECRET AFFAIR
2: [3D] THE ASWANG CHRONICLES (2D)
3: THE THREE STOOGES
4: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE

MARKET! MARKET!
1: A SECRET AFFAIR
2: THE THREE STOOGES
3: LOOPER
4: [3D] THE ASWANG CHRONICLES (2D)
5: TAKEN 2
6: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
7: RESERVED

TRINOMA
1: A SECRET AFFAIR
2: THE THREE STOOGES
3: ARGO/LOOPER (2D)
4: [3D] THE ASWANG CHRONICLES (2D)
5: LAWLESS
6: A SECRET AFFAIR
7: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE

ABREEZA
1: A SECRET AFFAIR
2: LOOPER (2D)
3: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
4: THE THREE STOOGES

MARIKINA POINT
1: THE THREE STOOGES
2: A SECRET AFFAIR
3: LOOPER
4: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE

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MALL EVENTS

GLORIETTA
Halloween
October 3 Activity Center

GREENBELT
Greenbelt Halloween Red Carpet
October 31 Greenbelt 3 Fashion Walk

MARKET! MARKET!
Automatic Center Appliances Fair
October 12-31 Atrium Activity Center

ARCA SOUTH CEBU
Think Pink FB Campaign: Support the cause online
October 1-31 The Terraces

TRINOMA
Halloween Film Showing featuring
The Ring 1 & 2 - October 31 5:30pm Trinoma Park

ABREEZA
Pink Dance Survivor's Day
October 30 Activity Center

MALL SPECIAL

Visit www.ayalamalls.com.ph or text AYALA MALLS to 2848

Argentine pianist performs tonight at the CCP

ARGENTINE pianist Emilio Pernol performs tonight at 7:30 at the Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino (Cultural Center of the Philippines Little Theater) in Pasay City.

Born in Neuquén, Argentina in 1977, Pernol has been awarded in concerts featuring works by Bach, Chopin, Schumann, Liszt, Mendelssohn and Debussy as well as performances of modern and tango.

He has been awarded prizes in several international piano competitions and has been the recipient of many scholarship grants.

Dingdong's 15th anniversary gig

Pop singer Dingdong Avanzado celebrates his 20th anniversary in the music scene with the show "Tadong Before Bigkis" on Nov. 9, 8 p.m. at Music Museum.

Guest performers include Rachel Alejandro, Gino Padilla and Ogie Alcasid, plus Dingdong's wife Jessa Zaragoza and their daughter Sofia.

Call Ticketworld at 891-9999, Music Museum, 725-8726, and Wee Gutierrez, 8876256.

SHOW TIME

The Fray at Smart Araneta Coliseum

The Fray, an American piano-rock band from Denver, Colorado, performs on Nov. 10 at the Smart Araneta Coliseum.

Formed in 2002 by schoolmates Isaac Slade and Joe King, the band achieved success with the release of its debut album, "How to Save a Life," in 2005.

Its first single, "Over My Head (Cable Car)," became a Top 10 hit in the United States. The release of its second single, "How to Save a Life," brought the band worldwide fame. The song went to No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100.

The group's self-titled followup album, released in 2009, debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard chart.

The Fray's use of the piano as lead instrument in its music has led critics to compare the band with British piano-driven bands like Coldplay and Keane. However, the band lost its influences

as The Wallflowers. Counting Crowd, Jayhawks, Toto, Rem and U2.

Crowded at Smart Araneta

American rock band Crowded performs on Nov. 11 at the Smart Araneta Coliseum.

Composed of lead vocalist Scott Stapp, bassist Brian Marshall, drummer Jean Phillips and guitarist/vocalist Mark Tremonti, the band has sold more than 50 million albums worldwide. Some of its hits include "With Arms Wide Open," "My Sacrifice," "Higher," "What If," "What's This Life For" and "Are You Ready."

Though regarded by many as a Christian rock band because some of their best songs tackle themes such as sin, mercy and faith, the band has never claimed to be one and, in fact, was never signed to a contemporary Christian music label.

For VIP tickets, seats and prices and other details, call 9218883 or 0920-2601999.

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THE THREE STOOGES
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TAKEN 2
ALEX CROSS
LOOPER
ARGO
TEKTIK: AMAENG CHRONICLES
GREENHILLS CINEMAS
THEATRE-MART
PROMENADE
MEGAWORLD Lifestyle Malls
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE
NEWPORT CINEMAS
EASTWOOD CINEMAS
Looper
Secret Affair
Argo
The Three Stooges
This Guy's in Love with you Mare
Tiktik: Aswang Chronicles 2D
Secret Affair 3D
SHANG CINEPLEX
POWER PLANT CINEMA
LOOPER – R-16
ARGO (R-13) – PG
THE THREE STOOGES (SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT) – PG
THE THREE STOOGES – PG
ALEX CROSS (DIGITAL 2D) – R-13
LOOPER (DIGITAL 3D) – R-16
007 SKYFALL
007
OPENS TOMORROW
in IMAX
MTRCB Rating: PG
Children below 13 years of age shall be allowed only if accompanied by a parent or an adult.

LEARNING

Editor Chelo Bassal Formoso

IESA PRINCIPAL Rocha and Kris Aquino are obviously pleased with the new classroom

Dream come true for preschoolers

By Nina Granali

STUDENTS of a public preschool in Mandaluyong City no longer have to be cramped in the tiny cottage-type rooms in hot classes in the hallway.

The skinny, Kinley Araga hangs in Pag-angat at Pag-asa (MAPP) Preschool and Playroom handed over recently two "Wild Pangaing" classrooms to their Elementary School Ilaw Bilid (Nina Araga (IESA) in Southville 3, Barangay Poblacion.

Kindergarten teacher Melina Tadeo said, when the rooms were first opened, preschoolers immediately ran toward the books and toys.

"The kids were so happy," Tadeo said, adding that they became more enthusiastic in the discussions and activities in the new classrooms.

Before the kindergarten pupils got their rooms, they were caught in day-care centers because IESA could not accommodate the nearly 600 children. Our class has about 85 pupils. Their no-three-time-hour shifts, from 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the IESA preschool.

Tadeo said, on rainy days, water would spill into the rooms, flooding the entire floor because of the large windows, some times some held outside or in the hallway.

Each "Wild Pangaing" classroom has their bookshelves, shelves for toys and arts and crafts and a growing area.

The classroom is painted white, red, yellow and green, and adorned with posters and cutouts of flowers and fruit.

Able to accommodate about 20 students, each room has four long tables, with six chairs arranged in a circle.

The teacher stays in the middle. The setup is unlike the traditional classroom wherein the teacher speaks in front of the class. Chairs are arranged in rows.

IESA principal Antonio Rocha said in a statement, "When kids are comfortable in

THE NEW two-classroom preschool building

THE KIDS ARE NOT ALL RIGHT

Film *launches* antibullying *campaign*

Text and photos by Stephen Norrie, A. Pueblo Cord Reyes

(Second of series)

SCHOOL should be a safe and secure haven for children, but nowadays it can be a setting for violence.

In the United States, more than 13 million children are going to be bullied this school year. Bullying cases in the Philippines are not actually reported so there are no figures on how many have been victimized in public and private schools.

But Jessie Ibanez, Education Commission (BEC) believes bullying exists in the country, even if there are no official statistics on the problem.

To raise awareness of this "most common form of violence experienced by young people in the nation," BEC partnered with Iwlas Bullying to bring the acclaimed documentary "Bully" to the Philippines.

Directed by Lee Hirsch, the film focuses on the alarming rise in cases of bullying of teenage students in the United States. It tells the tragic story of Tyler Long and Ty Smalley, who both committed suicide after being constantly bullied by schoolmates.

The film also documents the experiences of victims in high schools in Georgia, Iowa, Texas, Mississippi and Oklahoma.

During the documentary at a springboard, BEC launched the antibullying campaign "Not in Our School," with popular television host and basketball star Chris Tiu as endorser.

The campaign is in line with the Child Protection Policy of the Department of Education, "which seeks to defend the student from any form of abuse, including bullying."

Discuss and reflect

BEC chair Fr. Johnny Go, S.J., says, "We hope this movie can reach as wide an audience as possible, especially among our students. At the very least, it should heighten awareness of the issue and begin productive discussions and reflections about a real problem that can no longer be ignored."

He believes, through the campaign, other schools will take a proactive stance against bullying, "with each stakeholder considering and contributing to a nurturing and bully-free school environment that is the right of every student."

Jane Casocho, high school principal of Xavier School in San Juan City, is inviting other school principals, teachers, administrators and students to "take the Not in Our School challenge and pledge here."

The vow part pledge states: "I will not be a bully. I will help the bullied and I will speak up about bullying."

The final part is not only a reminder but also a confirmation of the real definition of "bullying," which can be verbal, physical or both.

The second part indicates those who take the pledge to "confront or stop the bully, convince the bully to stop, call for help or communicate with the victim."

Report incidents

The final part urges people to "report incidents of bullying, testify if needed, share personal experiences and keep the issue hot."

In encouraging people to join the movement, Casocho says, "Schools need to join forces and support each other's efforts [to stop bullying]."

Dr. Lea Quevedo, associate dean for academic affairs of Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health and attending psychiatrist at The Medical City, recommended the film for helping raise awareness about bullying. But she says it is also ideal of showing the perspective of the perpetrators.

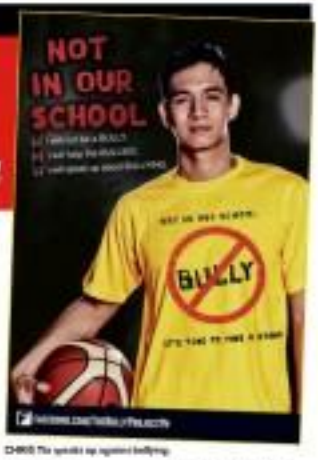
"Why do children become bullies?" she asks. Quevedo says there is a "need for a fellow through."

She adds that "everyone is responsible when someone gets bullied ... Bullying is misunderstood as a very personal level. Real intervention is systemic and structural. No individual can do it alone."

"Bully" will have a limited theatrical run starting Nov. 14, after the invitation-only premiere at 6:30 p.m. on the 13th at Robinson's Galleria Cinemas 6. The movie is rated PG-13 by the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board.

BEC is offering several Saturday exclusive screenings for schools at Robinson's Galleria. Schools can also sponsor campus screenings for a reduced fee. To influence the film's use as a formative tool, BEC will provide teachers and parents with a discussion guide to facilitate processing of the complex message of the movie.

Interested schools may contact jbcatlic.edu.ph or outreach@ cebu-catholicschool.com for bookings.



CHOICE The symbolic sign against bullying

DR. QUEVEDO (above) school officials pledge their support to "Not in Our School" campaign (right).

Playgrounds for the MIND

E-mail: [redacted]@inquirer.com.ph
Copy Editor Chayrie Medina

Zonal fora on teacher education kicks off

PHILIPPINE Normal University will host the first of four zonal fora to teacher education from Nov. 7 to 9 on the PNU Manila campus, Bulletin said in a teacher education in the National Capital Region are expected to participate in the nationwide discussion and sharing of current and emerging practices in teacher education.

The Zonal Teacher Education Forum is a series of teacher education fora organized by the National Network of Normal Schools (3NS) with the PNU as the lead convener in preparation for the ASEAN Regional Forum on Teacher Education which will be held on December 2013.

Pangasinan State University will host the Luzon forum on Nov. 14 to 16. Cebu Normal University will host for Visayas on Nov. 22 to 24, and Western Mindanao State University is slated for Mindanao on Nov. 27 to 29.

Each zonal forum will have plenary and parallel sessions on three major topics in teacher education and how they relate to instruction, research, and linkages. Moreover, the zonal fora will identify current and emerging practices in teacher education in the region and determine factors or forces which define and direct these current and emerging patterns.

The regional reports will be presented to the National Women on Teacher Education in 2013. The regional reports will then be consolidated in form the National Country Report which will be presented in the ASEAN regional forum.

HONOR ROLL

Educator is 2012 Juran medal awardee for quality

THE PHILIPPINE Society for Quality, Inc. (PSQI) announced the selection of Dr. Rosita L. Navarro as the 2012 Joseph Moses Juran Medal Awardee for Quality in recognition of her achievements in promoting quality concepts and as a role model in promoting quality concepts and ideals. Navarro will be honored at the 24th National Quality Forum of the Society on Oct. 12 at the CDM Shangri-La Hotel. Navarro is chair of the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities Commission on Accreditation (PAO.ECAI), immediate past president of Centro Escolar University, and presently, consultant on Quality Assurance-Books Audit™. The Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature are among the most sought-after awards in the country, with a good number of industry luminaries counted among its list of past winners.

Letran journ freshman wins Palanca award

EDLYSA Ode Dan Joanne Letran's Journalism freshman Katrina Bonifacio won first place at the Kabataan Kuday category of the prestigious Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature. Bonifacio's entry, an essay titled "Chapter One: DOWNLOADING," beat over a hundred other entries in her category for youths aged 15 and below. According to her, the essay was inspired by her sister downloading and reading books all throughout the summer. She then wrote the essay to try to shed light on the question, "Do we consider school books still important in our education even though we have e-books now?" The Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature are among the most sought-after awards in the country, with a good number of industry luminaries counted among its list of past winners.

DLSU-Integrated School excels in Math tilt

DE LA Salle University Integrated School team intensified its hold on the top spot in the 3rd Jaggaer Math Wizard Challenge Grand Finals held at SM Calamba last Oct. 6. The team, comprising of Sebastian H. Morada (4th Year), Ian Vincent Kim (3rd Year), Ela Bie Park (2nd Year), and Martin Carlos P. Miranda (1st Year), with their coach, Beng Dejan, topped 33 other schools in Region IV-A. For its accomplishment, the team was awarded P30,000 in cash, gold medals and certificates.

UE surpasses nat'l passing rate in ME, EE licensures

THE RESULTS of the 2012 Mechanical Engineer Licensure Examination given on Sept. 23 to 24 by the Board of Mechanical Engineering, Professional Regulations Commission (PRC), showed impressive performance by University of the East examinees. Of the 1,000 who took the exam, 1,000 passed, for a 100 percent passing rate. The national passing rate is 68.88 percent.

In the Electrical Engineer Licensure Examination, given by the PRC's Board of Electrical Engineering last Sept. 9 and 10, showed successful examinees by the UE Manila garnering 88.24 percent passing rate, more than the national average of 62.24 percent. UE Caloocan registered 66 percent. For the list of UE new licensed engineers, log on to the UE web site, www.ue.edu.ph.

CAMPUS SPORTS

Southville golfers top world competition

BRINGING pride and glory not just for their alma mater but also for the country are junior golfers, Abegail Ferrolino and Chanelle Arevalos, fielded 8 and 10 students of Southville International School and Colleges (FISC), respectively, Ferrolino and Arevalos dominated the top spots in the 13-year-old and 15-year-old divisions, respectively, of the 2012 Nonbus World Junior Golf Championships held at the Pacific Palms, Los Angeles, California. Nonbus is an international multi-division junior golf competition offering an opportunity qualified young golfers from around the world the opportunity to participate.

DPS-QC stages taekwondo championship

THE 11TH DPS-QC Inga Taekwondo Championship — Sen. Nikki Coseteng Cup was held at the Oldman Preparatory School on Biliwasa, Quezon City last Oct. 7-8. Hundreds of taekwondo ins from the National Capital Region attended. St. Paul of Batanzaka topped this year's cup and garnered 17 gold medals to earn the overall championship title. JL Taekwondo followed in second place with 12 gold medals, while School of St. Anthony placed third with seven gold medals. Two-year DPS-joined and finished off the tourney with 34 gold medals, but did not open video of the championship to give way to other visiting schools. DPS will instead square off against Adamson on Oct. 28 at the Smart MVP Philippine Taekwondo League at SM Mall-bag, and School of St. Anthony on Oct. 21 at SM Valenzuela.

BRIEFS

Perpetual and Microchip ink deal

ARIZONA MICROTECHnology Inc. will be offering unique benefits for Perpetualite educators and students to increase the latter's knowledge base on embedded applications. Microchip will be giving academic support through various tutorials. The donating school to help seed labs, assisting in finding low-cost development tools, and providing free versions of all Microchip software. In exchange, Microchip and its third parties will recommend software and hardware tools to aid in integrating its products and the technologies in Perpetual's engineering classrooms.

PUP gears for 2nd Young Communicators' Congress

IT'S ALL systems go for the 2nd Young Communicators' Congress which will be held at the MP Theater in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City on Oct. 30 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Organized by the Polytechnic University of the Philippines College of Communication and endorsed by the Commission on Higher Education, the event focuses on the theme "Youth in Communication: Advocates of Peace and the Environment for Sustainable Development." This year's congress is chaired by Dr. Rosalina P. Bernardo, university research director and chair of PUP Broadcast Communication. Prof. Kristine H. Pena directs the program.

STI in Tacurong inaugurates new campus

STI COLLEGE Tacurong welcomed the school year 2012-2013 with a bigger and better campus inaugurated at the National Highway, Brgy. Baldato, Tacurong City. Inaugurated on Aug. 15, the newly-built three-storey building stands on a 10,000 square meter lot and houses fully air-conditioned offices and classrooms, fully-equipped computer and kitchen laboratories, a library with a wide array of research materials, and a spacious basketball court.

PSBA alumni homecoming Dec. 1

THE PSBA Alumni Association will hold its annual alumni homecoming on Dec. 1 at the Esther Philippines Plaza, Pasay City with the theme "I salute PSBA Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow." The homecoming is in preparation for the Golden Anniversary Celebration of PSBA in 2013. Jun Medrano will chair the Pasay coming Committee. All graduates from 1968 to 2012 are invited to the launching of the PSBA Alumni Projects and for a night of fun, reunion and dance as well as enjoy the camaraderie of friends and former classmates. For more information or inquiries, visit www.psbaalumni.com. Or call or text Dani Mercado at 0917 811-9010 or 850-3900; Jerry Santillan at 0917 811-3270; Mel de Guzman at 09145 775-7888 or 575-2883; Fe Abalone at 09071 554-4164; PSBA-QC c/o Noel Antolin at 09192-583-8416 or 981-3601; or PSBA-Manila c/o Linda Tria at (0917) 687-0672 or 733-1388.

DLSU-STC celebrates World Teachers Day

DE LA Salle University Science and Technology Complex (currently De La Salle Candaba) celebrated the World Teachers Day 2012 last Oct. 5. The event started with a Eucharistic Celebration followed by a short program prepared by the students.

TESOL certificate course Nov. 10 to Dec. 2

THE internationally-accredited TESOL Certificate Course (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) will be held Nov. 10 to Dec. 2 at Dawn School of Quezon City, 6/F Village, Sto. Domingo, Quezon City. The resource speaker is Dr. Paul Robertson, EdD of TESOL Asia Ltd., chief editor of TESOL Law Journal, founder of seven other international academic language journals, and author of numerous books on second language acquisition. The fee is P15,000 for local enrollees and $1,000 for foreign enrollees. To register, contact Ron Sasono at (0922) 809-2480 or pgconsultants.com; Pearl Gordon at (0917) 635-0040 or pearl@pgconsultants.com; Irma Vergara at (0906) 459-1102; Irma_vergara@yahoo.com; or 981-6001 loc 3040; or clarebalmes@yahoo.com. VISA or MasterCard payment is accepted.

FEU Theater Guild opens 79th season with 'Usapang X'

IAN DAS'SON University Theater Guild (FTG), in collaboration with Far Eastern University (FEU) and its Panahelig Committee on Culture (FEU-PCC), recently opened its 79th season with "Usapang X," an original play written and directed by Dodi Tanada. FTG's artistic director and production member of the Philippine Educational Theater Association (PETA). The production, which features Tanada's one man band "Dodi" Vil, 15 and 21 at the historic FEU Theater, entwined FTG's tradition of staging noteworthy and contemporary works. Based on an earlier play by Tanada entitled "Toilet Bowl," previously mounted by the PETA Metropolitan Teen Theater League (PETA MTTL) in 2005, "Usapang X" is a set further that features a series of monologues set in a constant room. Considered to be one of the most frequently played by FTG, it tackles students and sensitive issues such as gender, sexuality and other youth-related concerns by exposing different experiences that people normally think of as confidential.

Off LA Salle Lipa bound this year's Cin La Salle Brothers of the Philippines' annual assembly. A total of 58 La Salle Brothers gathered last Oct. 13 for the annual event.

Member Schools

Families that learn together

It WAS my pleasure to be one of the judges in the recent second edition Family Values Awards.

From more than a dozen entries from across the country, five families stood out. They have one thing in common: A love of learning that they impart to their children.

THE BANZUELAS—Remy, Ana, Nam, Ramon and Chantal—present the award winners.

Needy children

The Cardente family of Zamboanga Sibugay aims to ensure that underprivileged students can dream of a better future, fostered by a loving grandmother, father, aunt and uncle.

Ever since Rogie Cadiz and Ruth Clata are not live in the Youth for Environment in Schools' Organization, father Ramon and mother Clarissa (who works for the Department of Social Welfare and Development) are officers of the parents' association and support their children's work.

With grade schooler Sun Cyril, the family does mangrove planting, waste segregation and recycling, coordinating cleaning and greening. The barangay knew that preserving the earth is essential to prevent calamities and also to provide people livelihood.

The family lives by the motto: "It never hurts you do, make the most of it." Why not Colombian, a family friend, admire the Banzuelas' readiness to help others, despite financial difficulties. Meanwhile Ganya, Clarissa's officemate, says, "The family has integrity. They do not want for [anything in return for] their advocacies."

Juliet Castanares, another family friend, also volunteering in the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) for Bantay Bata of all, "They influence, inspire and encourage a lot of kids or people to join the environment."

Indigenous people

The Bone family's saga is first in Mabaybay, Bukidnon. Father Alex has Higaonon, while mother Anna Marcia comes from Bukidnon's indigenous people. Alex did not finish his studies, as he supported his siblings to complete theirs.

Alex and Anna Marcia honor their ethnic origins. During family reunions, they instruct ancestral rituals, complete with costumes and dance. He is active in the Bogos Lumad organization and she, in the Bukidnon Indigenous group. For 21 years, they have worked with both groups to resist ethnic peoples to farm their land.

Thelia Tantoan, Anna Marcia's sister, says, "The family is known for its unity and cooperation among indigenous people." People from various tribes work in harmony. Every harvest, with grade school children Ruthelia, Aldrian and Abraham Mac, the Bukos share their blessings with the farmers.

The family is generous, open-hearted and well-loved. Sheikh Agnes Bukos, another relative, says, "Whether or not they have a good harvest, they share whatever they have with the community."

Amida Ibata providing much-needed jobs. Financial aid and resources to farmers, the Bukos also share their produce with Four Square Gospel Church and the people around them. Church pastor Elmer Tejero extols the family's faith and commitment to God, which "are seen in its "very entire."

Tantoan says, "The family is strongly united in love because of their deep faith in the Lord. A strong family builds a strong nation."

Other winners

The Guzman family of Santo, Manila, makes cancer more bearable for children of poor families. For more than 15 years, they have done everything, on shoestring and gift giving to kids in Parumar and Manila. Father Emiliano and mother Amita encourage work colleagues to join their cause. Technique daughters Anna Gabrielle and Anne Mireille use their talents in dancing and singing to entertain the children, dressed into funds for them.

The Ramos family of Bacolod City helps the community in various ways. Step a college professor, design and creates eco-friendly products to help people affected by disasters. His wife, Mae, teaches those in need. With children Charise Mae, Catherine Ann, Christian Michael and Christian Ray, the family has spotted their home for Sunday school.

Each family received a cash prize of P100,000, P50,000 worth of Jollibee gift certificates and a trophy by Michael Casino, among others. The board of judges was chaired by Ms. Tessie Cabildong, Jollibee Foundation president.

E-mail the author at blue-book@yahoo.com.

THE CARDENTES—Reuben, Jennifer, Nikki, Jason and Joshua—help needy kids.

Foundation scholars in top 10 of PRC's accountancy licensure examination

FOUR OF SIX school-scholars were among the top 10 passers of the recent board examination for accountants.

A total of 46, about 80 percent, of 58 scholars who took the licensure exam conducted by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) are now full-fledged certified public accountants.

Rayjohn A. Dayanlo, magna cum laude graduate of Saint Louis University in Baguio City, was first. Marc Russell S. Arca of Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, Jasmien B. Barrera of the University of the Saint Louis-Tuguegarao, and Brian B. Mendoza of Mapua-Jesuan College in Bulacan, all summa cum laude graduates, were fourth, sixth and ninth, respectively, in the PRC test.

The board passers were among 164 scholars who graduated in May. They were part of the 10th batch of SM Foundation graduates.

Although the scholars finished the doctrine of fairness in documentary course, only 52 took the board exams.

Nina Corlin Mendoza expressed her gratitude to SM Foundation, especially to the Yu family, through SM Foundation program manager Eleanor P. Lansang. He said the life-changing achievement would have been impossible for him without the help of the foundation, adding he would always bear in mind its motto: "If you wish it, it can happen."

SM Foundation supports 1,250 scholars around the country. 82 position scholars throughout the country. Most of the scholars are fully financed by SM Foundation, while 102 are supported by other private companies and individuals but supervised by the foundation.

Seminar on best financial practices

A ONE-DAY seminar on "Best Practices in Financial Processes and Controls" will be held on Nov. 16 at the Peninsula Hotel, Makati City.

Organized by the Center for Global Best Practices (CGBP), with help from Ipema Pena Wakefield and Company, the seminar will share with participants best practices in designing and implementing financial controls that will safeguard assets, enhance integrity of financial reports, and provide protection from business operational risks.

Mark Anthony A. Pedero III Ernesto, a partner in the assurance division of Isla Lipana and Co. and Pricewaterhouse Coopers. He is also learning and audit methodology leader of the same firm.

Daman has had extensive experience in audit, accounting and business advisory practice in hotels and public companies in the Philippines and overseas.

Large corporations and small family-owned firms will benefit from the seminar's lectures on current internal controls that will reduce, if not eliminate, fraud, theft, false financial transactions and other business crimes.

More companies around the world are investing resources on strengthening financial processes and controls.

Prerequisite knowledge required as costs are limited. Early bird and group discounts are available.

Visit www.cgbp.org or contact CBGP at 8988888888, 837-0123/8870 (Cebu) and 974-4270148 (Baguio).

'The Nutcracker' ballet features 'orphan' kids

CHILDREN with so-called orphan diseases will be featured in "The Nutcracker" ballet on Nov. 10, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) in Pasay City.

The children are students of the Philippine Ballet Theatre (PBT), which is committed to providing high quality training to Filipinos interested in the classical dance.

"As great the children's illnesses they needed and the opportunity to dance in the ballet, PBT partnered with the Philippine Society for Orphan Disorders, a nonprofit organization that advocates the welfare and care of children with rare diseases.

PBT artistic director Ivan Lapitan said it would be heartwarming for people to watch kids with rare disorders perform alongside other dance students of the company.

The PBT 10th Season, under the baton of Gerard Salonga, will play the music composed by Russian Peter Ilyich Tschaikovsky for this traditional Christmas favorite.

The PBT has been teaching children, who otherwise would not have access to ballet lessons, for more than 40 years.

Jaylaicos garnished weekly performing workshops for the children affected with rare diseases where they learned the steps and interacted with other members of the cast as they would get used to performing with them on stage.

For the special performance, families can enjoy specially priced packs that include four orchestra center tickets and coupons that can be exchanged for cookies and milk and a cool bag at the Bench cooler shown in the CCP lobby.

Major sponsors are Petron, SEC-CBN, Benjamin Stark's Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., SM Malls, Body Fresh Philippines, EZRA, Fascalaire and Zenith Pharmacal.

Call the PBT office at 8228849/8941589 881?. Tickets are priced at P100, P500 and P1000. Discounts for students and seniors are available.

School registers 100-percent passing rate in medical board exam

ST. LUKE'S College of Medicine-William H. Quasha Memorial (SLCM-WHQM) registered a 100-percent passing rate in the August 2012 medical board exam conducted by the Professional Regulation Commission.

The school was the only one to achieve the feat during the August tests.

Nine graduates of SLCM-WHQM who have taken the medical board exam for the first time have also achieved a 100-percent passing rate in the past eight licensure tests.

The achievement puts SLCM-WHQM among the country's top five best performing schools of medicine in the past five years.

Dr. Rogelio L. Garandang Jr., dean of the College of Medicine, said the school had consistently realized its goal to be among the best medical schools in the country.

He said the school's outstanding passing record that only the best and the brightest were accepted into the medical program, which offered the most liberal scholarship grants that were also the most comprehensive, as they included free books.

He said the school's scholarship/retention scheme was also "one of the most stringent."

Established in 1994 as St. Luke's Medical Center's training school, the College of Medicine aims to be a leader in innovative medical education through a unique system of academic and scholarship programs for deserving students.

The scholarship program, which was launched in 2005, awards grants to bachelor's degree holders who graduated with Latin honors from colleges and universities in the Philippines.

Scholars should also have ratings of 90 percent and above in the National Medical Admission Test.

The scholarship covers tuition, laboratory, miscellaneous fees and books. More than half of the college's current student population are scholars.

Garandang said the college believed in narrowing students by ensuring the highest standards in medical education.

The SLCM-WHQM also offers a Master's Degree in Molecular Medicine.

Call 7250101, loc. 9560 or 8816.

Science educators' seminar

THE ASSOCIATION of Science Teachers and Educators of the Philippines (ASTEP) is holding a seminar-workshop on Nov. 16 at Ateneo de Manila Grade School auditorium.

Facilitators of the workshop are science education specialists from the University of the Philippines National Institute for Science and Mathematics Education Development.

The seminar-workshop aims to share best practices in the implementation of the Revised Basic Science Curriculum and improve students' learning outcomes in implementing the spiraling curriculum.

Astep is inviting science teachers, subject area coordinators, academic supervisors, principals and administrators in the workshop.

Call Astep president Gina Rodrigues at 8900-2942727 or e-mail ginal1461@yahoo.com or astep_2003@yahoo.com.

New training program uses entertainment elements to aid communication

TRANSFUSION Inc., a new training firm, has introduced a new coaching method that incorporates the elements of entertainment into Neuro Linguistic Programming (NLP) to aid in communication.

NLP, or neuro-linguistic programming, was developed by John Grinder and Richard Bandler to address trauma, phobias, depression and learning disabilities.

It studies how people structure their personal experiences and belief systems (neurology), how language is used to the process (linguistics) and how actions can achieve a positive change (programming).

With the addition of more techniques over the years, it is now widely used in human communication, law and education.

Eli Llorena, managing partner and modules were designed based on clients' needs, with NLP as the backbone. Transformation, he said, achieved balance by delivering both content and entertainment.

Camille Mangaliag, one of the founders, said they wanted NLP in the Philippines to meet certain quality requirements. Consistent distinction between process and content, high quality presentation that delivered maximum value to participants, focus on application, etc.

NLP aims to bring about positive change and self-development by looking into a person's beliefs and how they influence his/her actions. In designing modules, NLP asks people and organizations what issues they want to address and their desired goals. They are then guided to synergize their mind-set to achieve those goals.

Transformation, a Filipino company, has branches in Singapore and Hong Kong. Visit www.Transformation.com.ph.

Dream come true...

From page F1

a classroom, they learn fast."

Marlene Cuicolo, mother of one of the children, said their daughter was very happy and even excited to go to school. "Mommy, I want to stay here," she told her.

When asked about what she enjoys most, Marlene's daughter, Jonalene, 4, said, "I like the toys, especially the bus. I enjoy drawing, coloring and storytelling."

Another pupil, Josh Lee Pitiel, 5, said she loved the books in their new classroom, and she enjoyed the reading session.

Tubo said, "These children have always been interested in learning, but with all the books and toys in the new classroom, they seemed to become more interested. Their reaction was very inspiring. They inspire me to be a better teacher."

Tubo said she was excited about the new school that ASAFP was giving them later that day.

ASAFP executive director Carl Caguioa said the foundation teaches participating in the seminar would be immediately noticed in their pupils' performance.

Caguioa said Tony de los Angeles Bautista, multitalented educator and producer of the educational television show "Barkitas," would be teaching the teachers.

"He (ATP) goes beyond traditional teaching ... He went to make sure that teachers in 'Sibol Pangarap' are using modern and appropriate teaching methods," she added.

Pitiel said it was a real surprise. Caguioa said, adding that they wanted to develop preschoolers properly and prepare them for grade school, reduce the dropout rate and help kids realize their dreams.

Josephine Cortinas-Yap, president and chief executive officer of Philippine Airlines, said, "Education is an advocacy that is close to our hearts ... We know that we will be proud of these children someday."

Villaroel chose ESSA because majority of its population were children in the school. "It's a way of giving back to the community," the company said.

Villaroel and ASAFP will be building four more "Sibol Pangarap" schools in Dolan, Ibaca-Ilas, Sariguan and Quezon provinces.

CHEF JUDGES Hans Nickson, Martin Kaspar and JP Hipos

WARREN Brown and Patrick Bautista

MYRNA Sagismundo, Colin Mackay and Jill Sandico

JESSIE Siscoco, Glenda Barreto and Bobby Gora

WINNING dishes by Team DMC

A most delicious war

EDITOR'S BOARD

Cinelo Bansal-Tormon

THE MAIN idea of the recent National Food Showdown (NFS) may be summed up in a few words: Students show up and show off their skills at the showdowns.

On the day of the most recent Ultimate Chef Wars, the competition floor at the World Trade Center, down by the bay, was apportioned into two areas.

One side was for the professional teams from restaurants, hotels and caterers, people who cooked for a living and were only there to vie for bragging rights.

Culinary arts students occupied the other side. They came from schools from as far as Dipolog City, Cebu and Baguio.

Besides winning honors for their schools, they had much to gain from this event—experience, exposure, recognition, not to mention plus-a-cap with the country's leading chefs for their facebook postings.

"We do this more for the students," said Emmanuel Wee, chef Myrna Sagismundo, the NFS overall chair and head of Tri Food Chefs, which originally organized the culinary skills competitions to upgrade the food industry.

"It's really the students that make this competition exciting," said Peninsula Manila's illustrious Gandoterma.

Exactly the sentiment among the chefs responsible for running the most reputable kitchens in the country but who reported for judging duty on the next days of the NFS, along with food dominos like Gandoterma.

Before anybody gets the wrong idea, student warriors do not battle professional warriors at the NFS. There are two separate cook-offs, one among students and the other among the pros.

This year, there were 68 competitions, some of which were live and others that were called display competitions.

While the crowd-drawers were always the bartending and flair tending competitions, the highlight of the 8th NFS was, as in the previous years, really the Ultimate Chef Wars.

As winners of the regional Chef Wars, the teams from Asian College (NCR/Calabarzon), DMC College Foundation (Mindanao), Philippine School of Culinary Arts (Visayas) and the University of Baguio (Luzon) advanced to the NFS Ultimate Chef Wars, where they tried to out-cook one another by, if possible, the gold medal with honors. If not that, any of the gold, silver or bronze medals would do nicely. It is interesting to know that medals are still a big deal among students.)

At the recent NFS, the cooking area was cordoned off from the rest of the gallery for the battle royale. Delegations from the culinary and tourism schools—in bandanas—tried to cheer each other on for the front line so they could throw in their mama.

Actually, once the Allied Meat Kitchens stoves were lired, the rooms became oblivious of the audience. They were, after all, given only an hour to prepare three dishes for two servings.

Although they came in the cooking area with their ingredients already prepped, the students were still under a lot of pressure to, within 60 minutes, cook and plate and present the food for judging.

As chef Jessie Siscoco said, the sense of urgency was "good cooking for the future when they have to get dishes out of the kitchen in important times."

And the thing about a live competition is that anything can go wrong. The electrical outlet wouldn't work, for example, for one team that needed an electric mixer.

Another thing that could leave a rookie cook shaken, if not stirred, is that famous chef's sweet going around looking at what they were cooking, even spot-checking the smoke and casseroles of chefs-in-lires.

Everybody is judging the mise en place," said chef Jose Pluro Wigmo, chair of the NFS judges' panel. "We're looking front and back, not just tasting."

In other words, there were points for well-prepared workplaces, as well as for the hygienic handling of tools and ingredients. One reason I ate at a buffet pass for its small ingredients was "very smart," according to one judge.

How the three dishes could be all hot or all cold or a combination of hot and cold. They may all be appetizers, all entrees or all desserts, or again a combination of the three. So if a team's brew is sweets, then by all means the students could choose to make three desserts.

But here's how the Chef Wars separates the creative cooks from those who just know how to pass food over heat: "There is a main ingredient that is unique to the restaurants with only a week to get to know the competition, and that ingredient should be used in all three dishes.

At the recent NFS, it was wood-ear mushrooms. How creative could you be with mushrooms—that was the challenge.

"Model," said the legendary Glenda Barreto, the Va Shan CEO. "You can do a lot with mushrooms."

The NFS encourages thinking out of the box for the event, and presentation also earns a team more points, but sure is still the ultimate test.

From the DMC College team came three dishes superb enough to merit a rating of 96 percent and win the gold for culinary arts students Pria Shoora Ann Arenas, Robert Michael Rodebaldo Jr. and Prince Daniel Crisostomo.

No team was awarded the silver medal.

The Philippine School of Culinary Arts team from the Visayas, consisting of Gerard Jose S. Ramirez, Gelie L. Gamaangan and Eva Penny B. Bedaña, earned the bronze.

Diplomas were given to the team of Basil D. Marcella, Kevin Johnson E. Bandoc and Effrey C. Bitchon of Asian College, representing NCR/Calabarzon, and to the University of Baguio team of Sweet Lynette M. Chanonon, Hilda M. Ichariad and Johnren V. Lazaro, representing the Luzon region.

Three students were lucky to get outrageous opportunities like competing as a huge event like the NFS.

The chefs who served as judges at the NFS took the time to debrief contestants after every event on the students would go home, if not with awards. Here at least with lessons that, if heeded, could run the gamut from one of the biggest kitchens of the world.

STUDENT chef warriors Johnston Jose Ichirban of the Philippine School of Culinary Arts, Asian College and the University of Baguio

GOLD WINNERS DMC College Foundation of Dipolog students Robert Michael Rodebaldo Jr., Pria Shoora Ann Arenas and Prince Daniel Crisostomo

JUDGES Peter Ko, James Arevalo and Bobby Trinidad

SAVORY Dishes, Lito Urbina, Myrna Sagismundo, Glenda Barreto and Bobby Cinco

ELEGANT San Juan, Claude Tayag and Marietta Encarnacion

PRESENTATION counts.

Baguio HRT Weekend is one big food trip

BAGUIO beckoned but five days were not long food stops to make.

The chefs who were going to serve as judges at the 9th Annual Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism (HRT) Weekend were served a breakfast of sinangag, sardines, eggs, beef tapa and champorado at Restaurante 1901, the queendom of ABE-CBN chef Myrna Sagismundo. Her highness is the overall chair of the yearly National Food Showdown (NFS).

Next was early lunch at Pasa Tiempo, where the welcome is always a special part of the menu.

Arvin Claude Tayag and his wife Anne were hosting. The Tayags are a cooking and serving couple.

They served a spread of tomato, scrum, the tenant and best longganisa in the country, tiny pinakbet, buro, quilquin, leche plan—everything to make a hypertrigger's tummy smile.

The food pilgrimage wound up at the 106-year-old Baguio Country Club (BCC), which would serve as venue to the NFS judges for the chairmen of "the largest and most exhibit culinary showdown in the South."

This was where elimination rounds for the northern NFL were going to be held, in partnership with the Hotel & Restaurant Association of Baguio (HRAB).

BCC general manager Anthony E. de Leon, who is also HRAB president and chair of the Baguio Tourism Council, played genial host to the chefs as he discussed the guidelines for judging. He then excused them with a dinner buffet, an easy enough task because his guests were people whose passion for food was also their bread and butter.

The members-only hotel atop the Cordillera mountains opened its doors to the next three days to culinary, as well as hotel and restaurant management (HRM) students from Baguio, Ifugao, Pangasinan, Tarlac and other parts of Northern Luzon.

As far as de Leon was concerned, students who were joining the HRT Weekend were not competing against one another. "They're competing against standards," he said.

Students milled around BCC, waiting for their turns, which were announced at the Peter Verandah, the 50 Cameron Forbes Ballroom, the Green Zone Area and other spots in the beautiful country club.

Banners of competing schools were mounted at the venue, but no logos or identifying marks of the schools were allowed on plates, cutting boards and other items used in the competitions.

The most photogenic course were the Sweet Revenge contests in plated desserts, petits fours/pralines, wedding cakes, creative cake decoration and baby cakes. This was the second year that Baguio promoted the world's biggest wedding cake course.

For the HRM and culinary students who competed and those who just came to cheer, nothing could beat HRT Weekend. After soaking up a warm and going through the anxious moments of the judging, sooner than later, there was Baguio to enjoy.

BAGUIO HRT Weekend Chef Wars student-division winners Johnren P. Lazaro and Sweet Lynette M. Chanonon of the University of Baguio, with Baguio mayor

LUNCH stop at the Tayags' Bale Dalang (from left): Hans Nickson, JP Hipos, Frank Chong, Glen Navarro, Tito Wilo, Lito Urbina, Myrna Sagismundo, Allen San Juan, Glenda Barreto and Boy Vasquez

ALUMS Hotel Kitchen staff Rose Ann Magbanua, Janice Ramos, Pablo Pura, Dale Villareal and William Barrera, with Adolfo Blanco